

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should the CNMI
grant improved
immigration status
to long-term alien
workers?

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INSIDE

No Changes

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff says that employers shouldn't expect any changes in immigration enforcement.

BUSINESS...Page 13



Papal Visit

The leader of the world's Roman Catholics has been to the White House only once in history. That changes this week.

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New Craig

He's a style icon known to millions as suave superspy James Bond.

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FBI raids video shop, two men arrested. PAGE 3

Lack of fuel triggers outages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Alack of fuel at Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico triggered outages in many areas on Saipan yesterday, beginning as early as 3:02am.

Mobil only started delivery of part of the 80,000 gallons of fuel yesterday morning, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

CUC Power Division acting manager Gary P. Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that the 80,000 gallons of fuel (worth \$296,000) would last only three and a half to four days.

Camacho said the daily consumption at Power Plant 4 had increased since Thursday due to the additional production it is providing to compensate for the engines being repaired at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base.

"A CUC official was informed on Sunday morning of the fuel situation at the Power Plant 4. However, Mobil could

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3 schools closed due to outages

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Three schools in the Public School System had no choice but to let their students out early because of a power outage that took longer than expected.

Koblerville Elementary School, Hopwood Junior High School and Saipan Southern

See 3 SCHOOLS on Page 4

Nearly 100 furloughed govt workers retain jobs for now

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Some government employees who were to be furloughed last Saturday have had their contracts renewed for about 60 days.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said almost 100 of the approximately 150 employees on Saipan will be able to keep their jobs until June 7, 2008. He could not say

what happened to the workers on Tinian and Rota.

A total of 350 workers were to be laid off on April 12, 2008 due to lack of government funds.

However, some contracts were renewed for a limited time after the Governor's Office and the Department of Finance "found some way to accommodate them," Reyes said.

See NEARLY on Page 4



AWAODORI FESTIVAL

A child from the Koblerville Youth Center practices the Otoko Odori traditional Japanese dance moves in preparation for a performance in the upcoming Awaodori Festival at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan on Thursday, April 17. The festival will be held for the second time on Saipan with members of the Tensuiren, Awaodori Traditional Dance Group from Ko-Enji, Tokyo, Japan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

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Local

Tinian had highest unemployment in '05

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A 2005 study shows Tinian had the highest unemployment rate among the three main islands in the Commonwealth.

Seventeen percent, or about 330, of Tinian's labor force did not have jobs in 2005.

This is much higher than the unemployment rates on Saipan and Rota, which were 8 percent (or about 2,700) and 10 percent (or about 100) respectively.

Of the unemployed on Tinian in 2005, 80 percent were U.S. citizens while 20 percent were non-U.S. citizens. Persons born in the Northern Marianas made

up 71 percent, while foreign contract workers were about 18 percent of Tinian's total unemployed population.

Chamorros were 75 percent of Tinian's unemployed population in 2005; Asians were 22 percent; and multiple ethnics were 4 percent.

Non-U.S. citizens comprised a larger percentage—34 percent—of Saipan's unemployed than Tinian's in 2005. U.S. citizens made up 66 percent of the jobless. Non-U.S. citizens outnumbered the U.S. citizens on Saipan in 2005.

Persons born in the CNMI made up 53 percent of Saipan's total unemployed. Foreign

contract workers were about 18 percent.

On Saipan, Chamorros were 30 percent of the total unemployed population in 2005. Asians were 25 percent, Micronesians were 18 percent, and Carolinians were 17 percent. Multiple ethnics made up about 8 percent of Saipan's unemployed in 2005.

On Rota, nine in 10 jobless persons were U.S. citizens in 2005. Persons born in the CNMI made up 71 percent, while migrant non-U.S. citizens were about 6 percent of Rota's total unemployed population.

Chamorros were about 66 percent of Rota's unemployed

population in 2005; Filipinos were about 12 percent; and multiple ethnics were also about 12 percent in 2005.

At the time of the survey, the largest industry on Tinian by number of workers was the hotel industry with about 38 percent of the total employed population. Seventeen percent of those employed were in government.

Saipan had 33 percent of its employed population working in garment factories, 13 percent in hotels, and over 8 percent in government.

Meanwhile, the government provided jobs to 36 percent of the employed population on Rota. The second largest indus-

try was arts, entertainment and recreation with 12 percent, followed by education services (11 percent), and accommodations (10 percent).

Conducted in 2005, the Household, Income and Employment Survey lists population by election districts, median age, age distribution, sex ratio, ethnicity, citizenship, migrant

population, reason for migrating to the CNMI, length of stay and living arrangements. Labor and income statistics cover employment by industry, employment and unemployment, employment by ethnicity and citizenship and by class of workers. Household and family income figures are provided, as are per capita income.

Torres: Saipan subsidizing Rota, Tinian power users

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

\$4 million, and revenues reach only \$3.2 million.

"Saipan customers are paying for Tinian and Rota. No wonder Telesource wants to move to Saipan to take over our power plants. This is where the beef is," said Torres.

Telesource CNMI, which operates the Tinian power plant, has offered to bring one of its generators to augment the power supply on Saipan.

Several calls were made to CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero, but they were not returned.

The Legislature is currently considering legislation to reverse the October 2007 rollback of commonwealth-wide power rates.

House Bill 16-79 would restore the previous rate structure that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. adopted in 2006 in a bid to cope with oil price increases.

The bill would overturn Public Law 15-94, which forced

See TORRES on Page 4

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FBI raids video shop, two men arrested

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested yesterday a video shop manager and its employee following a raid at a video shop in Chalan Kanoa where thousands of alleged pirated DVDs and VHS tapes and other items were confiscated.

Il Cho, 46, and Min Jo, 50, both Koreans, were arrested for three counts of copyright infringement. Cho is reportedly the manager of Seoul Video Store while Jo is an employee of the establishment.

The two were brought to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday for a bail hearing. Cho appeared with his attorney,

Bruce Berline. Jo was with attorney David Banes.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson allowed the temporary release of Cho and Jo on \$1,000 and \$1,500 unsecured bonds, plus other conditions.

Munson set the preliminary hearing for May 1, 2008, at 9:30am.

An FBI special agent said that on March 18, 2008, he spoke with Ellis Miller, the owner of three Kevin Video Stores on Saipan.

The special agent said that Miller claimed that he started his business in 1997 and that he has been aware of the sale and rental of pirated videotapes and DVDS by other video rental businesses on Saipan.

Miller has retained an attorney to pursue a civil suit against his competitors who are allegedly selling and renting pirated movies.

The agent said that he reviewed the photographs taken at Seoul Video Store by a person who is assisting Miller's attorney in collecting evidence for a civil lawsuit against several movie rental companies.

The agent said that on March 19, he asked a "cooperating witness"

"to attempt to rent pirated videos from Seoul Video.

An employee of the store directed the "cooperating witness" to a shelf containing several empty DVD containers with titles on the containers such as *Bucket List*, *Juno*, and *Bee Movie*.

The "cooperating witness" asked the employee if he could rent the three movies. The employee went to a backroom and returned with the three movies.

The "cooperating witness" told the employee that he thought *Juno* was still in theaters and therefore not available for rent.

The employee answered that the DVD came from Korea where the movie has already been in theaters and therefore is available for release.

The "cooperating witness" rented the movies for \$2 each

and provided them to the special agent.

The special agent said that on March 20 he spoke with Kevin Sun, the deputy director for U.S. Anti-Piracy Operations for the Motion Picture Association of America, who told him that *Juno* and *Bucket List* had not yet been released in DVD, therefore any copy currently available to the public would have to be pirated.

The agent said that they then searched the Seoul Video Store on March 26 where they seized thousands of DVDs and VHS tapes of currently released motion pictures, 32 DVD and VHS players/recorder, 10 boxes of blank DVDRs, 26 boxes of label paper, 10 boxes of VHS labels, 10 DVD "burners", six bottles of printing ink, and several pages of DVD labels.

The agent said Cho and Jo admitted that they purchased the DVDs from Korea and copied them onto VHS tapes for sale and rent to customers.



HOME TOWN HERO AWARD

American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter disaster team leader Claudine Atalig hands over the certificate of appreciation to Sgt. Thomas Blas on behalf of his team members while Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clyde K. Norita looks on, during the "Home Town Hero Award" ceremony at the DPS Central office in Susupe last week.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health



ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Rota Vendors only. All interested vendors can pick up an application at the main office located at the upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 15, 2008 through April 30, 2008 (Mon. to Fri.) or download an application online by visiting our website at cnmiwic.org. The Vendor Selection Criteria is attached to the applications and can also be viewed on line at www.cnmiwic.org.

All applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., April 30, 2008. Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications and requirements are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4071, by email at fabianu.cnmiwic@gmail.com or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

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Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
CNMI WIC Program, Director

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Traditional canoe to be built at arts fest

This year's Flame Tree Arts Festival will feature the construction of a traditional Carolinian canoe—a sacred event opened to the public only in recent years.

Henry John Yarofalpiy, the son of master navigator Pius Mau Piailug of Yap State, will demonstrate the construction of a *meta'bwil*, or trolling canoe, using techniques passed from father to son through generations.

The project will include the weaving

Henry John Yarofalpiy will demonstrate the construction of a *meta'bwil*, or trolling canoe, as shown in this scale model. Other pictures show the process of carving the canoe's body.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Gabriel Togomai

Andrew Rapou

TORRES

From Page 2

residential rates down to 17 cents per kWh in October 2007, and either reduced or scrapped other charges for residential customers.

But under the latest version of the bill, the recently organized Public Utilities Commission must set new rates

within those 60 days. If the regulatory body fails to do so, the rolled-back rates will again come into effect.

The 15th Legislature passed P.L. 15-94 amid pressure from the consumers who were suffering from the sudden hike in power rates.

However, the Legislature's action hurt the utility's finances. According to CUC, the rollback, compounded by the rising cost of fuel, has caused the utility

to face a monthly shortfall of about \$1 million for fuel. For months now, the cash-strapped government has ended up paying millions of dollars in fuel subsidy to CUC.

This occurred even though the 17-cent rate remained in effect for one month only. In November 2007, CUC adopted emergency regulations that enabled the utility to adjust the power rates depending on fuel prices.

She said the school called the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. several times but it was only in their last call that they discovered that the power outage was expected to go on much longer.

Saipan Southern High principal Peter Le'au said the school thought the power outage was only going to last up to two hours, "that's why I kept them [students] longer."

"We're not supposed to keep students on campus should the power outage last longer than two hours," Le'au said.

"When we all came in, the power was already off. We expected a two-hour block but today was really long," Masga said.

Masga said that the power outages have been effecting instruction.

"They usually turn the power off from 1pm to 3pm. But the power had gone out in the morning and took much longer than usual," Le'au said.

"It's been very hot outside lately and some of the rooms don't have windows. We have also been modifying our schedules to make sure that the kids go to all subject areas," said Masga.

She said the school understands the situation, "but please let us know [of power outages] in advance."

Masga said that if the school had known about the extension of the power outage, they would have made

preparations such as water for backup in the restrooms or scheduled a Health & Education Day event.

"All we're asking is to please let us know in advance, even if it is within that time when the power had gone out. As soon as they have an update, announce it on the radio, or fax that information to the PSS Central Office so that our Commissioner can call us and let us know," Masga said.

PSS is scheduled to conduct its SAT-10 tests to grades 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 next week.

Masga said she is hoping that the power outage will not affect the SAT-10 testing of the students.

"It's going to be very hard for us.

Crone's largest annual arts and culture celebration. This year's festival—with the theme "Fatta I Ireniata, Abwaári Yaasch Schowammwir, Showcase our Inheritance"—will be held at Civic Center on Saipan on April 24 and April 25 from 6pm to 10pm, April 26 from 9am to 10pm, and April 27 from 9am to 11pm.



Tony Pialug

LACK

From Page 1

not deliver additional fuel until Monday morning [yesterday]," he said.

In addition, the acting manager said, an electrical problem occurred on Engine No. 8 at Power Plant 1 at 7:20am but this was soon repaired.

This is not the first time that CUC ran out of fuel for its power engines. On Jan. 28 this year, CUC was forced to implement outages after a delay in the delivery of fuel.

Yesterday's outage began at 3:02am at Feeder 7, affecting areas from Lower Base to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque,

As Matuis, and Marpi.

At 4:04am, an outage occurred at Feeder 2, affecting Beach Road Garapan from the Kristo Rai Church south to the San Jose intersection.

Many other areas experienced outages as other feeders also tripped. Some feeders got partial online.

Camacho said that power was restored to all areas after lunch, with the exception of Susupe and Chalan Kanoa areas.

"We do our best. All the CUC personnel are working as diligently as possible to minimize the frequency of power outages and reduce the time that the interruptions occur," he emphasized.

day periods.

At one point, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed a law appropriating \$1.2 million for the Saipan workers. This would have covered half of the amount needed to keep all 157 Saipan employees on the payroll through Sept. 30, 2008.

But it is not clear whether the money was actually used to pay the Saipan workers.

The law, which sourced the money from local poker license fees, did not indicate what positions should be funded with the appropriation. Moreover, one lawmaker has said the plan may be illegal, as the government is operating on a continuing resolution and must spend resources only under the guidelines set by the fiscal year 2007 budget.

All we're asking is for more communication because this is not helping," Masga said.

Le'au hopes that power outages next week would occur after school, "so that the students can take their tests."

He said it would be difficult for students in some of the classrooms without windows as it would be "very hot in those rooms if the power goes out."

Another unexpected power outage issue at the schools is the lunch that is being paid for by PSS.

"PSS is already paying for those lunches and we had to let our students out early. That's a loss," Le'au said.

Classes in all three schools are expected to resume today.

3 SCHOOLS

From Page 1

High School dismissed their students at 11am yesterday. There are about 1,100 students at Hopwood and 747 at Saipan Southern High. The number of affected students at Koblerville Elementary was not immediately available.

According to Hopwood principal Christine Masga, the power went out at 6:30am yesterday and had not come back on by 11am.

"When we all came in, the power was already off. We expected a two-hour block but today was really long," Masga said.

She said the school called the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. several times but it was only in their last call that they discovered that the power outage was expected to go on much longer.

Saipan Southern High principal Peter Le'au said the school thought the power outage was only going to last up to two hours, "that's why I kept them [students] longer."

"We're not supposed to keep students on campus should the power outage last longer than two hours," Le'au said.

Le'au said this was the first time he was forced to send his students home due to the long power outage suffered by the school yesterday.

Masga said that the power outages have been effecting instruction.

"They usually turn the power off from 1pm to 3pm. But the power had gone out in the morning and took much longer than usual," Le'au said.

"It's been very hot outside lately and some of the rooms don't have windows. We have also been modifying our schedules to make sure that the kids go to all subject areas," said Masga.

She said the school understands the situation, "but please let us know [of power outages] in advance."

Masga said that if the school had known about the extension of the power outage, they would have made

Tinian hires five new immigration officers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Tinian has been beefing up its Immigration staff in anticipation of an economic boom that is expected to come soon due to U.S. military buildup and the opening of a new casino, among other projects.

Five new Immigration officers have been hired as part of Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas' flagship program in training the island's enforcement officers.

Immigration inspector trainees Alvin Lizama, Jeffrey

Hofsneider Jr., Richard L. Morgan, and Lester SN. Macaranas were sworn in by Superior Court presiding judge Robert Naraja as new Immigration officers.

The fifth new Immigration officer, Heinz Hofsneider, failed to attend the swearing in ceremony held at the Saipan Superior Court.

Naraja also administered the oath to three new Saipan Immigration officers: Jadine S. Ada, Andrew M. Lizama, and Vincent Kaipat.

John E. Untalan, chief execu-

tive officer for the Office of the Mayor Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, told *Saipan Tribune* that the hiring of five new Immigration officers is part of San Nicolas' program to train people before the opening of Tinian's international airport.

"It's actually a win-win situation. We stationed them [five] here on Saipan to have them get the training that they need. So when the airport does open, we will have fully trained Immigration officers," Untalan said.

The official underscored the

need to have sufficient Immigration personnel right now so the island is prepared when things are ready at the airport.

He said the addition of the five officers would double Tinian Immigration's staff, which currently has about five officers.

"As soon as we can accept international flights, we are going to have more Immigration officers there," he said.

The Mayor's Office is expecting the airport to open by next year.

At present, Untalan said, the

five officers are just enough because the island can't accept international landing.

"We have the new runway. We're working on parallel runway and we're waiting for the new terminal to open up," he said.

Untalan said Tinian is expecting more tourists, citing the upcoming military buildup plus the groundbreaking of the new casino next month.

"Tinian is very busy and Mayor San Nicolas is preparing for those things. This is one of his programs [getting five officers]. The five people over here are working with Immigration director Melvin Grey to provide them with the training that they

need," he said.

Vincent B. Lizama, Immigration officer in charge for ports of entry on Saipan, agreed with Untalan that the five new Tinian officers were sent to Saipan in anticipation of the opening of the Tinian international airport.

Right now, Lizama said, Saipan is short staffed at the ports of entry—airport and seaports.

Lizama said the hiring of the eight new officers are very important because they don't want the passengers to be waiting in long lines.

"They are done with the training except for some at the main office because we will be doing cross trainings," he said.

Local farmers to take part in Agri-Census

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Land and Natural Resources said that about 175 farmers in the CNMI will be participating in the 2008 Agricultural Census, which will cover data for the 2007 calendar year.

Pacific auditors set Saipan conference

The Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors will hold its 19th annual conference on Saipan.

The Office of the Public Auditor will host the conference to be held from July 14 to July 18, 2008. It is OPA's third time to host the event since the organization was formed.

Public auditor Michael Sabin, who is the 2008 APIPA chairman, said at the group's website, "Accountability is not only critical to a well functioning government and society, it is also everyone's business. This year's conference will offer training sessions on auditing and governmental accounting and offer opportunities for cross-communication and cross-training."

The APIPA 2008 Conference is offering seventeen courses in audit, audit supervision, basic finance, and finance.

The Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors was formed in January 1988 through a memorandum of understanding among the audit organizations of five Pacific Island nations.

The founding parties to the 1988 MOU were the public auditors of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the CNMI; the territorial auditor of American Samoa, and the auditor general of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The Department of Interior Office of the Inspector General-Guam also became a nonvoting member in 1988.

Since the inception, APIPA has expanded to include public auditors from Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae, Guam, Samoa and the Virgin Islands. (Agnes E. Donato)

Central Statistics Division director Jose Liwanag said that anybody earning \$1,000 or over from their farms, plant nurseries or livestock are subject to the 2008 Agricultural Census, which is scheduled to start before the end of April.

"The Census is in English and we understand that we have non-English speaking farmers. We have plans to hire somebody who can speak Chinese, who will help translate the Census for our Chinese farmers," Liwanag said.

He added that necessary documents to conduct the 2008 Agricultural Census are finally being processed at the Office of Personal Management and the Department of Finance.

The DOF Federal Grant section is the locally designated disbursing agency of the 2008 Agricultural Census.

The last time the Agricultural Census was conducted was five years ago.

Liwanag said the Census is done every five years as per the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them.

Liwanag said the exact number of farmers who will be filling out the new census will not be known until the program is fully completed.

The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and many other areas.

According to the USDA, participation in the Census of Agriculture is vital because farm organizations, businesses, government agencies, planners, policy makers, schools and the farmers themselves will use the information it contains to evaluate policies and programs, develop production and market strategies, and prepare for the future.

"It is the only report that gives a detailed look at all commodities on the county, state and national level," the USDA stated in its website.

Liwanag said all farms in the CNMI are being visited to prep farmers of the upcoming Census.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Amendment of the Citizen Participation Plan
(This advertisement is paid for with CDBG funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the proposed amendment of its Citizen Participation Plan which sets forth NMHC's policies and procedures for citizen participation in the planning, implementation and assessment of its Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Written comments should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 21, 2008 to NMHC's offices in Saipan, Tinian or Rota. NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any additional information or need special accommodations in reviewing the Citizen Participation Plan, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer at 234-6866/7689 or 7670.

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Double-jeopardy ruling could help Miura

By TATSUHITO IIDA
CORRESPONDENT

SEATTLE—The case of a Japanese man currently being detained on Saipan in connection with the murder of his wife in Los Angeles in 1981, despite having already been acquitted of charges in Japan, may be affected by a double-jeopardy ruling handed down at a court in San Diego on Friday.

The San Diego Superior Court dismissed a murder charge against a man who had already served a sentence in a

Mexican prison for murdering his wife on the principle of avoiding double jeopardy, in which a person may not be tried twice over the same crime.

Celestino Mendez Martinez was convicted of murder in Mexico, having fled there after murdering his wife in the United States 20 years ago. He was released on parole in 1994 after serving only six years of an 11-year sentence. He was re-arrested in connection with the murder after he reentered the United States.

The case resembles that of

Kazuyoshi Miura, 60, the former president of an imported goods company who was served with an arrest warrant in California in 1988 on charges of murder and conspiracy to murder his wife, Kazumi.

Miura was tried in Japan for Kazumi's murder, but acquitted after the Supreme Court rejected a prosecution appeal in 2003.

The Martinez ruling now means prosecutors are likely to be forced into a grueling court battle to get Miura tried in the United States.

According to the ruling and

other sources, Martinez, a 43-year-old Mexican, fatally stabbed his wife in San Diego County in May 1988 after complications arose in their divorce proceedings. Martinez was arrested when he returned to his family home in Mexico and later that year received an 11-year sentence. He served his time in a Mexican prison and was released early on parole in 1994.

The county police's cold case unit got wind of the fact he had reentered the United States illegally, and arrested him in September last year. County pros-

ecutors charged Martinez with murder and other crimes.

The California Penal Code used to state that the principle of prohibiting double jeopardy also applied to court rulings made in foreign countries.

However, because there are many cases of people committing crimes in the United States, fleeing to Mexico, and then going back into the United States, the California Legislature revised the law in 2004 to allow prosecutors in the state to try people with crimes even if they have already been convicted abroad.

Because the ruling in Mexico on Martinez's case came before the revision to the state law, the court ruled that the indictment was invalid because "it infringes the principle that laws must not

be applied retroactively."

The prosecution stated that the U.S. Supreme Court should recognize the need of appropriate punishment for the sake of the victims.

The Los Angeles County Superior Court plans to hold its first hearing April 23 regarding Miura's defense counsel request that his arrest warrant be declared invalid.

Miura was acquitted by Japan's top court in 2003, but as this was before the revision to the California Penal Code, the ruling on Martinez might influence the Miura case.

But the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office plans to doggedly carry on with its battle to have Miura incarcerated. (*Yomiuri Shimbun*)

'Federalization bill should reduce uncertainty in NMI'

A vocal advocate of federalization says the passage of the federalization bill is a relief for many and should reduce the general uncertainty in the CNMI.

"But the time for work has not ended, but has just begun," Ron Hodges told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail.

While federalization lays the framework for protections for guest workers, Hodges, a teacher, said that change is historically slow.

"I think those alive five, 10, and 20 years from now will live in a better place," he said.

Hodges said that now is the

Telemedicine: A major step forward for NMI health care

Health says that telemedicine—the use of the Internet to consult with specialists in other places—would represent a major advancement for the CNMI's health care delivery system.

Medical Affairs director Edward Cornette said that telemedicine is on the radar scope of the department as it will allow the "immediate evaluation of images from computerized tomography scans, machine readable information studies or any other radiographic study that needs confirmation of the findings."

He said that telemedicine would greatly enhance the diagnostic speed in select medical cases.

"Will it reduce off island medical referrals? Yes and no," Cornette said.

He said that telemedicine does allow for the rapid transfer of medical records to aid in patient care. Another benefit would be the use in continuing medical education for physicians, which is required for licensure and up-to-date medical practice.

Although it would ease up having to wait longer for health results and tests, "neurosurgical patients may still require off island intervention in select cases," Cornette said.

"Essentially, telemedicine has a broad application. It's just one of the changes for the CNMI's health care future," Cornette said.

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management
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E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu Website: www.nmcnet.edu

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 08-011

Litigation and Legal Counseling Services

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for litigation and legal counseling services for the institution. Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.** There may be a fee when picking up a package. Please call 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 for information regarding fees.

Proposal Packages are due no later than 4:00 p.m., April 21st, 2008, Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available to local vendors in this procurement. For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu).

All Proposers are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:
/s/ Duane R.T. Sablan
Acting, NMC Procurement Officer

Aland Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

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E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu Website: www.nmcnet.edu

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 08-012

Construction of Concrete Fish Tanks

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the construction of three (3) fish tanks at Paupau beach. Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.** There may be a fee when picking up a package. Please call 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 for information regarding fees.

Proposal Packages are due no later than 4:00 p.m., April 22nd, 2008, Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available to local vendors in this procurement. For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu).

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- 20% discount on drinks after happy hour at the Chambre Bar
- Above discounts good for up to 6 persons (including VIP cardholder)

At least 2,000 join Red Cross walkathon

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least 2,000 early birds across all sections of the CNMI community participated in the 22nd Annual Red Cross Walkathon held simultaneously on Saipan, Tinian and Rota Saturday morning. *See related pictures on Page 19.*

American Red Cross CNMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch said there were 1,400 registered walkers, most of whom were children with par-

ents and private companies that joined the cause.

"I think what makes our event so attractive to people in the community is that we really try to make it a family event. When it first started, it was only for the schools until the last five or six years when we really tried to broaden it," Hirsch said.

Non-profit organizations set up booths for health information such as the Ayuda Network, the Commonwealth Cancer Association, Commonwealth Diabetes Coal-

tion, and the Family Violence Task Force, among others.

The event included a health fair where volunteers provided free blood sugar testing, blood pressure check, cooking demonstrations, face painting, a bounce house and games for children.

Foremost Health Fair Booth also set up an area where they provided information on the nutritional values of milk products and treated event participants to free samples of healthful food.

Hirsch said he and his team

were overwhelmed with the turnout. He was pleased to see young children participating and walking for a worthy cause.

This year's 22nd Red Cross Walkathon's goal was to raise \$35,000.

"I feel that we have really come very close to that number," he said. The amount raised is still being tabulated and the final figure will be released as soon as it becomes available.

Hirsch said the money the group raised this year would go to the Red Cross NMI Chapter's

operational funding. "It stays with the local chapter," he said, adding that the money would help the group continue its different community services.

Last year, 1,500 people showed up for the event; the CNMI Chapter was able to raise \$36,000 for various community projects. In 2006, approximately \$40,000 was raised.

Hirsch thanked this year's walkathon premier sponsors: Coca Cola, Subway, Foremost, Glimpses and others for providing free drinks and other free-

bies for the walkers.

March was declared annually as Red Cross Month to recognize the community service and assistance the American Red Cross has extended throughout the world.

Hirsch said that after the catastrophic and long-lasting effects of Hurricane Katrina, "Red Cross has realized that no one agency or government can do it alone and that partnerships are so important to the safety of the people that live in the community."

NMC hosts counselors' conference

As part of its ongoing efforts to educate the community about the different programs and activities offered for high school students and graduates, the Northern Marianas College recently hosted a conference for the CNMI's high school counselors.

"The conference was a great opportunity for counselors like me to gain an in-depth insight about NMC's programs and services," said Cherlyn Cabrera, a counselor at the Marianas High School. "We are now in a much better position to knowledgeably and adequately advise our students about the many programs geared for them at NMC."

The counselors were welcomed by NMC President Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who spoke about the college's accreditation status and its efforts to obtain accreditation reaffirmation. After the president's welcoming remarks, other speakers and presenters led the discussion on several

topics, including the process of applying to NMC, financial aid options for high school students, NMC's degree and certificate programs, the college's data collection efforts, a summary of recruitment activities, and other topics.

The conference also featured presentations about scholarship opportunities from Merissa Rasa, CNMI Scholarship Administrator; and William Torres, adviser for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance office.

Those in attendance included counselors and representatives from Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Rota High School, Tinian High School, Hopwood Junior High School, ChaCha Oceanview Middle School, Mt. Carmel High School, Grace Christian Academy, the Division of Youth Services, Workforce Investment Agency, and PSS Human Resources Office. (NMC)



CNMI's high school counselors have their picture taken after attending a conference hosted by the Northern Marianas College.

An event to benefit higher education in the Northern Mariana Islands

6th Annual NMC Foundation Open

Saturday April 26 LaoLao Bay West Course

Show Time 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. Shotgun start

Ladies flight, Senior flight & Men's
Championship, A,B & C flights

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Early Registration Fee \$85
Late Entry after April 19 is \$100
Maximum 120 players limited slots available.
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Hole in One PRIZES



Hole # 3 - \$5,000.00

Hole # 7 - \$25,000.00

Hole # 13 - \$25,000.00

Hole # 17- 2008 Mazda 3





SENSORY FEEDBACK AND BEYOND

Occupational therapist and instructor Camilla McRae gather for a photo with Autism Society of the CNMI member Larissa Larson, participants and representatives from the Public School System, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, Family Hope Center, Autism Society of the CNMI, daycare providers, NMC students, family members of children with disabilities, parents, teachers and teacher aides during the "Sensory Feedback and Beyond: A look into the sensory system and sensory integrative dysfunction" workshop at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret Saturday. The activity was part of the Autism Awareness Month celebration.

'Changes in salaries of judges prohibited by 2 Constitutions'

The Judiciary has come to the defense of the salaries of its judges and justices, saying that both CNMI and U.S. Constitutions prohibit the reduction of judges' salaries while they are in office.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Judiciary also said that judges cannot volunteer to reduce their salaries as it would violate the constitutional prohibition of lowering the salaries of judicial incumbents.

It said that judges' salaries are protected to ensure that are able to deliver justice in a fair and unbiased manner.

"The Judiciary acknowledges the current budgetary constraints, but both the Commonwealth and U.S. Constitutions prohibit the reduction of judges' salaries while they are in office.

This ensures judges render decisions lawfully and not based on fear of reprisal or retaliation from any party, including the Executive and Legislative branches. Judicial independence must be maintained in order to have a fully functional, unbiased court system," the statement said.

"Society places justice as one of the highest if not the highest of our aspirations, and judges and justices are the individuals mandated to uphold such aspiration. The importance of judges' work is immeasurable. It is not an easy job and cannot be compared with any other profession or employment. A judge must deal with significant matters

such as an individual's liberty, property, marriage, children and numerous other areas that can have dramatic effects on a person's life. Every day judges throughout the nation accept the profound responsibilities of deciding who is imprisoned and who goes free, deciding when a feeding tube should be discontinued, and deciding who should have custody of a child. Such

work is essential to a democratic, civilized society, although it is often unpopular with the public. Public confidence directly affects the administration of justice, and any unjust criticism of the judges' or court system may weaken the administration of justice," it said.

Judges cannot even offer to lower their salaries, it said, because the Judiciary cannot agree to violate the very constitution they have sworn to uphold. "It is the solemn duty of judges and justices to uphold the NMI Constitution, and it is not the judges' choice whether or not to comply with a provision, even if noncompliance is for a good cause."

Former Chief Justice William Rehnquist, recognized that the salaries of federal judges are higher than those in many occupations, but states, "It is not fair to compare judges' salaries to salaries in other occupations. Those lawyers who are most qualified to serve as federal judges have opportunities to earn far more in private

law practice or business than as judges. Providing adequate compensation for judges is basic to attracting and retaining experienced, well qualified and diverse men and women to perform a demanding position in the public service." The same is true here in the CNMI. Judges have left behind the salaries of private practice," it said.

Jurists, professionals, and others that have a realistic understanding of the judicial process and its administration, realize the need to ensure that

the dedicated members of the Judiciary have the resources, security, and independence necessary to fulfill their crucial responsibilities," it added.

CNMI judge David A. Wiseman said: "We hope the community understands that a judge's constitutional right to an adequate salary proportionate to their learning, experience and elevated position should be maintained. After all, they are the guardians of the rule of law which is at the core of any civilized society." (PR)

HONOR ROLL

Green Meadow School Third Quarter A Honor Roll for School Year 2007-2008:

Kinder-3

■ Rayven D. Daca

Kinder - 4

■ Natalie J. Hirshbein
■ Mikee N. Mendoza
■ Claire G. Marzan
■ Jhanylin L. Cruz

Kinder - 5 A

■ Arvin S. Dayao
■ Alexandra Belle D. Dalusung
■ Kiana Joyce B. Valencia
■ Deirdre Mae P. Rosete
■ Gabriel Roy M. De Leon

Kinder - 5 B

■ Dustin Ross D. Salilin

1st Grade

■ Pionnah Gregorio
■ Danielle Pineda
■ Jeremiah Fernandez
■ Angel Sean Legaspi
■ Robin Reyes
■ Gabrielle Shanikka Flores
■ Francesca Del Pilar
■ Tianna Villagomez

2nd Grade

■ Monica Aira Usi
■ Kathleen Trinidad
■ Amelito Dalusong Jr.
■ Jolo Berueco
■ Keandre Deseo
■ Bert Gabrielle Magallano

3rd Grade

■ Kaela Mae B. Valencia
■ Danielle P. Coloma
■ Ma. Theresa O. Dalusong

Nauru speaker suspends 9 lawmakers

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZ)—The Speaker of the Nauru Parliament, Opposition Member of Parliament David Adeang, says he has suspended all nine Government members of parliament.

For weeks, parliament has

been in a deadlock with both sides having nine MPs.

Adeang said Thursday evening that he was forced to invoke disciplinary measures because of what he called unruly and shameful behaviour by the Government MPs.

He said this included personal insults hurled at him while he was delivering a statement on this week's decision by the Supreme Court.

That decision was strongly critical of Adeang's actions in calling a session of Parliament

for which the Government MPs received no notification and at which controversial amendments were made to the Citizenship Act.

The Chief Justice declared that those amendments had no validity.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 15, 1999

CUC, CPA agree to share costs in contract hitch

The ports authority and the utilities corporation yesterday agreed to share the cost of settling a contractor's claim for a half-completed sewer line, ending months of squabble between the agencies that has delayed the completion of the critical project. "The issue has been resolved," Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio told in an interview after the meeting. "They're going to start the project right away."

CNMI tormentor gets own torment

The New York-based law firm that lodged a \$1 billion class-action lawsuit against the CNMI garment industry has found itself in deep financial trouble. In a space of two days, the law firm Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes and Lerach, known for filing shareholder class-action suits in which investors go against corporate management with big money at stake, was \$95 million deep in court-mandated obligations.

This may be time to head Down Under

Australia's Consul General to the Federated States of Micronesia Timothy Cole yesterday paid a courtesy to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, promising to help the Commonwealth promote the Northern Marianas as a tourist destination. Cole, who is on island as part of his familiarization tour of the Micronesian region, said in an interview he has scheduled a meeting with officials of the Marianas Visitors Authority to discuss how Canberra could assist CNMI market the islands.

April 15, 2002

Group Health sinking due to failed promise

Among other things, the absence of the \$1 million that the Legislature had promised to fund the Group Health and Life Insurance Program, plus the delayed remittances of the Department of Finance of the monthly premiums is the primary cause why Group Health has been encountering cash flow problems. To resolve this, Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Board Chair Vicente C. Camacho said Group Health would soon increase the employer contribution to \$5 per subscriber for the program to stabilize financially.

CUC travel costs down 70 percent

Adopting the recommendations on an audit report on travel expenditures, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation claimed it has managed to drastically cut travel spending by as much as 70 percent this fiscal year compared to the figures of FY 2001. The estimate percentage was disclosed by CUC Executive Director Bernard P. Villagomez, following a special board meeting Friday.

Global Peace talks reopened

Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona reopened the negotiation with the Global Country of World Peace following a decision by the CNMI Legislature to reject the proposed projects on the island. In a press conference called by the Global Country of World Peace at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Friday, Prime Minister Emmanuel Schiffgens disclosed that after the Legislature's decision, Manglona called to renegotiate the project in hopes to develop the island's local economy.

April 15, 2003

House to Admin: Hold your horses

House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider said the House of Representatives will hold a public hearing on the proposed \$228-million spending plan for Fiscal Year 2004 to see if people will support the tax and fee increases it is proposing. At the same time, House Ways and Means Committee chairman Rep. Stanley Torres chided the Babauta administration for saying it is "frustrated" over the lower chamber's inaction on the budget bill and Gov. Juan N. Babauta's Integrated Fiscal Proposal.

Chinese, NMI leaders talk business

A delegation of Chinese leaders met with acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente yesterday morning in a visit that became the venue for discussion of tourism and other mutual interest issues, including the CNMI's goal to penetrate the China tourism market. Press Secretary Peter A. Callaghan said the dialogue dwelt on the CNMI's goal to get a designation for the Commonwealth as an approved destination for tourists from the People's Republic of China.

 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
USS Columbus arrives today

The *USS Columbus*, a Los Angeles-class submarine, will be arriving today, April 15, and departing Sunday, April 20. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce expects to host a reception for the officers and crew when they arrive. (SCC)

DUI/sobriety checkpoints this week

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI checkpoints this Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, April 18, the first setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by the Multi-Purpose building. This operation will start at 7:30pm and will end 8:45pm. The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Garapan by the Horizon Building. This will start at about 10pm and will end around 11:15pm.

On Saturday, April 19, the first setup will be on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa by Meenas Store. This will start at around 7:30pm and end at 8:45. The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai by Sherwin Williams building. This operation will begin at 10pm and end at around 11:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (one hour and 15 minutes) at each location.

In addition, traffic officers will conduct highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdiction, and laser activities.

For more information, contact PO3 Juan C. Mendiola or Sgt. Jerry Ayuyu at 664-9085. (DPS)

MMAC meeting tomorrow

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee will be having a meeting tomorrow, April 16, 2008, 5:30pm-6:30pm, at Pierre's Restaurant, Garapan.

The committee will discuss vital information regarding the upcoming 2008 MMAC which will be held on May 16-17 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. All Com-

mittee members are urged to attend this important meeting as the event is fast approaching.

The general public is being reminded of the upcoming 2008 MMAC where critically needed funds will be raised for the fight against cancer.

The MMAC is the largest fundraising event in the CNMI that supports the battle against cancer. It is the signature fundraising event for the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led organization that ensures that all funds raised are applied locally.

If you or anyone you know is interested in contributing to this worthy cause, email Chris A. Concepcion at chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com or Catherine Attao at attao20@yahoo.com. (MMAC)

Give the gift of rest, relaxation

Be "A Star for a Day" when the Society for Human Resources Management-CNMI Chapter celebrates Administrative Professionals Day on Thursday, April 17, at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The event will be from 11:30am to 1:30 pm (doors open at 11am) and will cost just \$15.

"Join us for a little bit of R&R time as we offer sensual massages, beauty tips, indulge in chocolates and enjoy a wonderful lunch buffet! Everyone will have a chance to win gift certificates, including beauty treatments," said the society in a statement.

Reservations are required. Contact Polly Deleon Guerrero at pdlguerrero@mymarianas.com, Frannie T. Salas at frannietalsalas@gmail.com or Tommy Kennington at hr@picsaipan.com or 234-7976 to do so.

Major sponsors include The SPA at Fiesta Resort Saipan, DFS Galleria, PIC, Expressions, Juanny's Beauty Salon, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Flor's Beauty Salon.

Live-fire training on Farallon Island

The U.S. military will be conducting live-fire training and aerial survey on Farallon de Mendenilla. The schedule dates and time are as follow: (PR)

- April 15 from 8:30am to 1am, live-fire training
- April 16 – 20 from 8:30am to 1am, live-fire training
- April 21 from 5am to 7pm, aerial survey
- April 22 from 1:30pm to 6pm, aerial survey
- April 23 from 8am to 11:30am, aerial survey

EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Memorial Day meeting today

On May 26, 2008 Memorial Day, the CNMI will be paying tribute to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have passed away.

This is to let all Memorial Day Committee members and all interested in being a part of the committee that we will begin to meet every Tuesday at 9am, at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill building 1364. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend.

Tinian High PTA meeting

To all parents and legal guardians of Tinian High School students: The Tinian High School Parent Advisory Council gives notice of intent to change the name to Tinian High School Parent Teacher Student Association. A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 3:30pm at the Tinian Youth Center. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, contact Wella Mendiola at wellaemendiola@yahoo.com or frances diaz at diazfrancesh@hotmail.com or 433-3800. Your participation is needed. (PR)

SSHS PTA meeting tomorrow

To all parents and legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School students: There will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 6pm in the cafeteria. (PR)



Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

SPORTS REPORTER

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

ART DIRECTOR

- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.


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Rota Field Office: Tel. (670) 532-9410 Fax (670) 532-9441 • Tinian Field Office: Tel. (670) 433-9213 Fax (670) 433-3690

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Program Year	Activity No.	Activity Type	Activity Name	Activity Status	Amount from program	Reprogram to
2005	315	Program Year 2005 CDBG Administrative Costs	Program Year 2005 CDBG Administrative Costs	Ongoing	\$54,070	
2005		Public Facilities	Rota Hardened Covered Walkway (RHS)	New		\$54,070
Total					\$54,070	\$54,070

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., May 14, 2008 at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Zenie P. Mafnas at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Zenie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance.

MANUEL A. SABLÁN, Chairman, NMHC

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A flying shame

Air travel has gotten so bad these days that going to the airport requires either an exercise in sadomasochism or an abiding faith that everything will be OK. That faith seems to be shattered daily. The latest victims are the thousands of passengers left in the lurch by American Airlines last week because the carrier failed to comply with a safety directive from the Federal Aviation Administration.

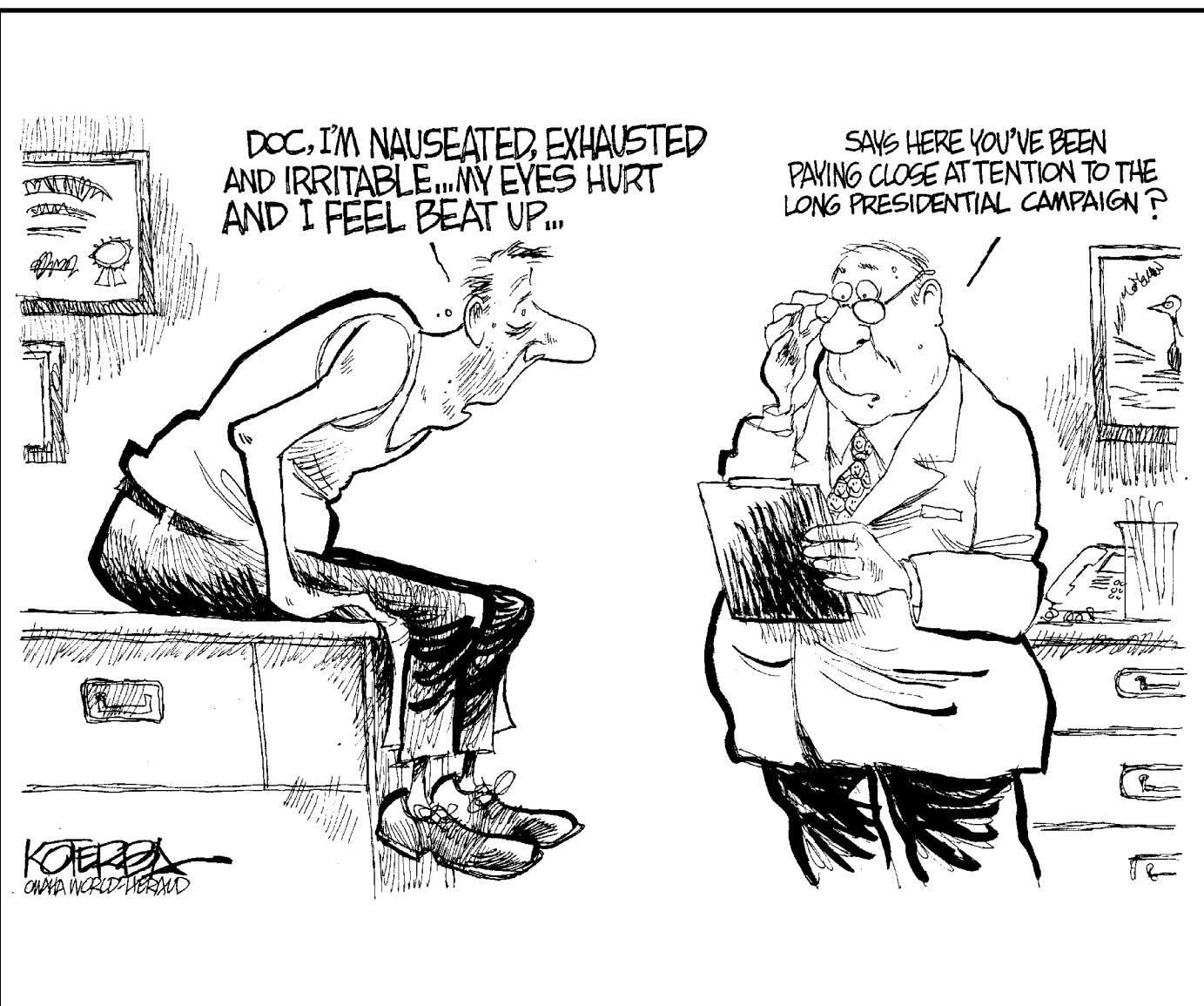
The agency ordered the airline in September 2006 to inspect wire bundles in the wheel wells of its fleet of 300 Boeing MD-80 aircraft. There had been reports of frayed wires, which led to concerns about the potential for loss of power, fire or even an explosion. The airline had 18 months to ensure the wires were sheathed in plastic and clamped in place; the clamps have to be one inch apart. But when FAA inspectors took a look last month, they found that the wire casings were not clamped properly. All of American's MD-80 planes were grounded on Tuesday, resulting in more than 3,000 flight cancellations and more than 250,000 stranded passengers by Friday. The airline, which said it would resume a full schedule Sunday, tried to ease the pain of the past week's inconveniences by footing the bill for lodging and meals and even making reservations on other air carriers. That's the least it could do.

The FAA swears that the action taken against American is standard operating procedure. But its aggressive posture coincides with table thumping in Congress about lax safety standards after the revelation last month that an FAA inspector let Southwest Airlines fly its Boeing 737 jets despite reports of a crack in a fuselage. At hearings before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on April 3, the Transportation Department's inspector general, Calvin L. Scovel III, bemoaned the "overly collaborative relationship" between the FAA and Southwest. According to an FAA safety inspector, this was the result of the agency treating the airlines like "customers." Meanwhile, the real customers—the ones crammed onto crowded and late planes who are nickel-and-dimed for everything from checking an extra bag to securing an onboard meal—are treated with disdain.

The coziness between the FAA and air carriers was bound to happen. The agency relies on a voluntary reporting system for safety concerns. We understand the rationale: Much can be learned when workers can report legitimate concerns without fear of retribution. Issues of compliance are more easily resolved when the lines of communication are open. But as the Southwest incident shows, a line was crossed.

The FAA is supposed to regulate the airlines, not coddle them. Yes, flying is one of the safest forms of transportation. There hasn't been a major U.S. airline crash since November 2001. Thank goodness. But after the year that passengers have had, they shouldn't now have to worry that the plane they're sitting on might be a disaster waiting to happen.

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Freedom and faith on campus

Mindless dogmatism is not part of the Catholic intellectual tradition. As stewards of that tradition, Catholic colleges and universities engage in the robust "dialogue of faith and reason" that the church expects of us, exploring the complex mysteries of God, the profound meaning of human life, the social-justice imperatives of the Gospel.

Critics of Catholic higher education, however, seem to expect us to be submissive disciples of some lesser religion, obedient to a doctrinaire laundry list of "Thou Shalt Nots"—e.g., "Thou Shalt Not" stage a play about women's body parts ("The Vagina Monologues"), allow gay students to form clubs or allow speakers whose political views diverge from church teachings.

When Pope Benedict XVI visits Washington this week, he will have a special meeting to address the presidents of Catholic colleges and universities. Critics have swung into full smackdown mode, predicting that the pope will lambaste the presidents for failing to prohibit activities the critics deem offensive.

The image of us presidents as wayward boys and girls assembled before the pope for chastisement feeds into the most pernicious anti-Catholic stereotype of mindless adherence to theocratic rulers. For Catholics to encourage the kind of actions that bolster such banal stereotypes is the real scandal.

The pope and the presidents have more serious and urgent business to consider together in the name of our faith. Civilization itself is beset by profoundly consequential choices among radical forms of religious and political beliefs, creating deep chasms within the global community and threatening long-term war and violence that undermine the peace essential for true human dignity.

Ours is a world with extreme economic disparities in which a small percentage of the planet's inhabitants consume almost all of the resources while billions lack even the most fundamental sanitation, shelter, food or education. The mission of Catholic higher education is to educate citizen leaders to enable them to address these grave moral and social challenges with conscience, conviction and intellectual strength.

The seminal Vatican document on Catholic higher education, known as *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, posits a remarkably contemporary view of the purpose of Catholic higher education. The document reflects the lively intellectual life of its author, Pope John Paul II, who had long experience as a university professor before moving into the hierarchy. *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* embraces the fundamental nature of a university as a place of free research and true higher learning leading to the discernment of truth, which is the heart of our faith. To suggest that Catholic universities are not places where intellectual freedom can flourish betrays the very teaching of the

By PATRICIA MCGUIRE
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is president of Trinity College in Washington.



church itself, which is respect for our academic freedom.

Nothing in *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* expects Catholic universities to diminish our identity as normative institutions of higher learning. On the contrary, *Ex Corde* calls us to an active life as real universities with the additional distinctive dimension of taking the dialogue of faith and reason into the culture, with all of the complex problems that may pose.

Of course, church leaders, including institutional presidents, also expect Catholic colleges and universities to manifest clear respect for the church and its moral teachings across the spectrum of issues in human life and moral conduct. How we manage that expectation within our respective communities of diverse scholars and students exercising their free-speech rights is at the white-hot center of many controversies. Controversy itself is sometimes the most fruitful way to teach about our faith.

The critics would have us ban plays, speakers, student clubs, faculty members and alumni guests whose words or deeds run contrary to the most orthodox interpretation of Catholic teaching. A great silence would descend on most Catholic campuses if we did that. Rather than being afraid of the expression of contrary ideas, we should leverage the teaching opportunities inherent in the free and open exchange of ideas that is essential to university life. If our faith is as strong as we claim it to be, we should not fear the cacophony that emerges during the struggle of learning.

Pope Benedict will be doing his job when he addresses Catholic university presidents Thursday on our obligation to be faithful stewards of the Catholic intellectual tradition and the moral teachings of our faith. We academics are doing our job when we engage in critical analysis of those teachings in light of our Gospel tradition, contemporary research and cultural context.

A church with a brain is not afraid to ask itself the hard questions about the role of faith, moral teachings and theological exploration in contemporary life. This is what *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* calls us to do; this is what the pope will remind us is essential and what we will continue to do in our mission in Catholic higher education.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

'Let them hear your voice'

Friends, community members, other concerned citizens, don't stand by and let these politicos forget who put them in office. Remember, they are public servants! Stand up and let your voice be heard. I encourage you to also write letters with your concerns. You know as well as I do that these practices are not right. We live in too small a community to not see the lavish abuses that have been going on. We cannot continue to stand by and watch as the communities crumble due to unequal austerity measures. *You can do something.*

I used to be afraid to speak out. I used to think my voice didn't matter. But it does matter. Our voices and letters, col-

lectively, can make a difference. Start today. You don't have to be a scholar; you don't have to be a good writer either. Just write what you think and let them know you are not happy with the way things are. If you are affected by the austerity law, if you are jobless, if you are tired of waiting for change, then *do something*. Write a letter to your elected leaders. Let them hear your voice.

To: Members of the 16th Legislature Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas

Dear lawmakers:
I am writing as a concerned citizen

regarding the refusal of the members to even listen to Rep. Tina Sablan's amendments for the recent austerity bill. She is not alone in her beliefs that the government needs reform.

After reading about the session when the austerity bill was discussed, I wondered how you can consider taking more money away from the lowest paid individuals in this community without even considering a reduction in what you take. That is outrageous.

We all know our economy is in dire straits. We also know that you cannot solve any of these problems overnight, but you DO have to start some-

where. One place many others and I agree you should start is with the perks many of you have and guard carefully; namely, the government paid cell phones, car leases, and especially the gas cards.

Secondly, you must modify the definition of what the discretionary funds can be spent on. As it is now, it is unfair and, in my opinion, criminal that many elected officials use my taxpayer money to "donate" to causes where they are then glorified and exalted for their "donation". Unless, every family in the CNMI is getting the same treatment, which I am sure they are not, I do not believe you should be able to pick and choose to whom you give financial aid, picnic tables or even toilet paper. I believe that money should be allocated fairly to the agencies that are already un-

derfunded as it is.

I am also concerned about the recurrence of suspending the "rules" at the latest meetings on the hill. As my students would say, "Why have so many rules if you aren't going to follow them?" Of all places, the Legislature should be following the rules; after all, you wrote them.

We are all suffering here; we should all bear the burden. Leaders lead by example. What example are you setting? Rep. Tina listens to the people, maybe you should too. Do not forget you are public servants.

To those of you who are joining the good fight, I thank you on behalf of the people of the CNMI. Thank you for leading by example.

Leila Aldan Fleming Staffler
Kagman II, Saipan

Why I oppose the PEW National Monument: Reason 2

This letter discusses two concerns I have with submerged lands issues related to designation of the PEW Monument by President Bush. I won't even pretend to know everything about this topic, but have expressed my opinion to generate public discussion. As everyone is aware, submerged lands issues are an important and culturally sensitive topic. The CNMI has been trying to gain ownership and management control of their submerged lands for years and has even taken the issue to Federal Court, but to no avail.

Our PEW paid lobbyist would have us believe there are no submerged lands issues associated with the PEW Monument. He states "*This designation would not play a role in the submerged lands issue.*" See blogspot <http://jetapplicant.blogspot.com/> "*Do you support the park?*" dated March 28, 2008.

After reviewing the regulations and management system that would likely be implemented once the PEW Monument is designated (modeled after what was done for the NWHI Monument in Hawaii), I must disagree with PEW's position. As such, submerged lands are the focus of the second reason why I oppose the PEW Monument.

REASON 2:

Creation of the PEW Monument will permanently prohibit any future oil, gas, or mineral exploratory activities on, or in submerged lands within of PEW Monument boundaries; an area encompassing 1/3 of the entire CNMI Exclusive Economic Zone.

Additionally, I believe it will jeopardize any future claim the CNMI may have to those submerged lands surrounding Uracus, Maug and Asuncion Islands when the CNMI begins negotiating with the federal government for designation of "state waters".

JUSTIFICATION

Unlike other states and territories, federal courts have recently decided that the federal government owns all submerged lands from the shoreline seaward to 200 miles. Of course, the CNMI government disagrees with the decision and is presently attempting to negotiate a zone of near shore marine waters/submerged lands (e.g., 0-3 miles, 0-12 miles, etc.) where the U.S. government could grant them sole management authority (i.e., state waters). As everyone knows, this issue has

not been resolved to date.

PEW has stated that President Bush would exercise his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431-433) to designate the EEZ surrounding Uracus, Maug and Asuncion as the NMI Monument. Under authority of the Antiquities Act, the President can *unilaterally* designate lands/waters that are *presently under federal ownership* as a National Monument simply by signing a Presidential Proclamation.

The President does not require governmental or stakeholder *permission* to designate the PEW Monument within the CNMI Northern Islands. Unfortunately for the people of the CNMI, the Antiquities Act has no provisions to allow for stakeholder participation (or review) in the decision making process.

Herein lies the problem: If the PEW Monument is designated by President Bush *prior* to the CNMI resolving the submerged lands issue related to state waters, *all* submerged lands around Uracus, Maug and Asuncion would automatically become part of the NMI Monument and be placed under *primary* management authority of NOS/National Marine Sanctuary Program, as was done in Hawaii.

We can look to the NWHI Monument regulations (FR Vol. 71, No. 167; pages 51134-51142) for guidance on what the CNMI could expect should the PEW Monument be designated. Please note on page 51134: "*The proclamation reserves all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI), including emergent and submerged lands and waters...*"

The regulations further state: "*The proclamation appropriated and withdrew the area from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land laws, including, but not limited to, withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.*"

As if the extraction issue actually needs further clarification, Section 404.6 (a) of the NWHI Monument regulations (pages 51137-51138) reads: "*The following activities are prohibited and thus unlawful for any person to conduct or cause to be conducted: (a) Exploring for, developing, or producing oil, gas, or minerals within the Monument. ...*"

John Gourley
Navy Hill, Saipan



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thirteen-year-old Angel Ray Tudela Guerrero is currently undergoing chemotherapy on Oahu, Hawaii, after being diagnosed with Medullablastoma.

Thank you for our Angel

Angel Ray Tudela Guerrero was born on Oct. 21, 1994 as a miracle baby. He almost didn't survive. He needed two tubes that were surgically inserted into both sides of his chest to keep him alive. He is such a strong person that he made it through with the blessings of God to live his life.

Angel is the most generous and giving person that you could ever meet. He is always willing to help anyone. He'll give you anything you need, even if it was the last dollar in his pocket. He brings a smile to the faces of anyone by his bubbly and honest personality. He is extremely academically smart. The light of his life can shine in even the darkest areas.

As a brother to three sisters and one brother, and an uncle of many, Angel Ray has always been able to divide equal love and attention to everyone. He has a heart of gold. He gets along with anyone easily and is the life of the party. He is treasured by his family dearly.

Throughout Angel's life, no one had ever imagined that he would have such a serious condition. Having been diagnosed with Medullablastoma (brain tumors) at the age of 12 in August 2007 was the biggest shock of our lives. Why would such an awesome person have this?

Being the person that he is, he stood strong and accepted what God had put on him. He continues to only look at the bright side of life and the negative disappears. He has donated a piece of his tumor to a team of researchers in Hawaii investigating the cause of Medullablastoma which is still unknown today.

He is currently undergoing intense chemotherapy on the island of Oahu, Hawaii.

As we all know today, our islands and its people have been going through major obstacles and problems. We understand the difficulties you all are facing.

So from our family to yours, along with numerous friends and relatives, we humbly thank anyone and everyone for any type of support that they have given us through this difficult time. It has helped us in many ways beyond your comprehension. Un dankulu na si yu'us ma'ase, Salamat Po' yan Olomway!

Joseph Lee Guerrero
Honolulu, Hawaii

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼76°	▲83° ▼76°	▲82° ▼76°	▲81° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼76
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼76
Yap	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼74
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89 ▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼73

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲69 ▼60
Beijing	Cloudy	▲73 ▼53
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼78
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼71
London	Showers	▲52 ▼37
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼53
Manila	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼54
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲71 ▼56
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲58 ▼42
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼49
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲50 ▼37
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲72 ▼53
Rome	Cloudy	▲59 ▼40
Salem	Showers	▲50 ▼35
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲59 ▼47
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼50
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼54
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼40

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
4:56AM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
10:46AM Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet
3:36PM Today	High Tide: 1.5 Feet
10:53PM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

	Today	6:03AM	6:31PM	Today	2:18PM	2:27AM
	Wednesday	6:02AM	6:32PM	Wednesday	3:10PM	3:07AM
	Thursday	6:02AM	6:32PM	Thursday	3:59PM	3:43AM
	Friday	6:01AM	6:32PM	Friday	4:47PM	4:18AM
	Saturday	6:00AM	6:32PM	Saturday	5:35PM	4:53AM

Moonrise/Moonset

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.	the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ CAMPUS BULLETIN	■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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■ E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com .	
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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747	
POLICY	
■ The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.	
■ The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.	
■ For Travelogue, the <i>Saipan Tribune</i> reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.	

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHTOS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily
CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6
CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota
CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily
CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya
NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6
CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1
OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6
CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7
CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror
CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily
PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guangzhou

CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
				FRE 100	7:00am	7:	

Business

Chertoff defends immigration enforcement

By SCOTT LINDLAW
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO — Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff says he feels the pain of employers pinched by intensified efforts to control illegal immigration, but adds that until Congress enacts broad immigration reforms they shouldn't expect any changes in enforcement.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Chertoff said this week that the rising complaints from businesses offer some evidence the Bush administration's approach is working.

"This is harsh but accurate proof positive that, for the first time in decades, we've succeeded in changing the dynamic and (are) actually beginning to reduce illegal immigration," Chertoff said. "Unfortunately, unless you counterbalance that with a robust system to allow people to come in temporarily and legally, you're going to wind up with an economic problem."



Chertoff

Chertoff defended the actions of his agency, which oversees Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"We're enforcing the law as it is, but Congress has not yet given us the authority to really expand the temporary worker program," he said in the Tuesday interview. "If we could do that, then most of these businesses could find legal solutions."

Chertoff sharply criticized businesses that complain the crackdowns on their hiring of illegal immigrants will cost them money. In a federal court case last year, groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce argued that the department had failed to account for the economic impact of new regulations on businesses.

The argument "basically suggests we can't enforce the law because it will prevent people from making money

illegally," Chertoff said. "The business community loves it (hiring illegal immigrants) because you have illegals, you pay them less, they have no place to go to complain."

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa wrote Chertoff a letter last month asking federal officials to rethink their policy

on workplace immigration crackdowns, saying they could have "severe and lasting effects on our local economy."

Villaraigosa accused federal officials of targeting "established, responsible employers" and said ICE should spend its limited resources targeting employers who exploit wage and hour laws.

Asked about the mayor's plea, Chertoff gave no indication that Villaraigosa would get the review and revision of ICE's enforcement priorities he is seeking.

"I would be delighted to see Congress give us a way to bring workers in legally," Chertoff

said. "Those workers would then be able to address the economic needs of the city and they

would do it in a legal way. But as long as the law is as it is, I will enforce the law as it is."

Guam exhibits in China's first ever '2008 Beijing Expat Show'

only a few hours away.

Guam is the westernmost USA destination and is "Where America's Day Begins."

The Guam Visitors Bureau also met with China International Travel Service, one of China's leading and influential Chinese travel agency. According to the World Tourism Organization, China is projected to supply 100 million travelers by 2020, making it the number one supplier of outbound tourists in the world.

China represents the largest and fastest growing visitor market and Guam was excited to participate in the first 2008 Beijing Expat Show that will help in the development of this lucrative market. (GVB)

TUMON, GUAM—The Guam Visitors Bureau is excited that Guam was showcased as an idyllic destination choice to over 300,000 registered expatriates living in China.

The first ever 2008 Beijing Expat Show took place from April 4-6 at the China World Trade Center. The trade show featured over 150 exhibitors and is the first show of its kind in Beijing, China. The show provided an excellent forum for service providers to showcase their products and services to potential expat customers.

The Guam delegation, led by GVB marketing manager Pilar Laguña, took advantage of the 2008 Beijing Expat Show to share the many qualities that



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Pilar Laguña, GVB Marketing Manager; Tomoyuki Goto, SandCastle vice president of Sales & Marketing; Joe Okada, GVB Marketing Officer II.

World Bank leader urges action on food

WASHINGTON (AP)—The president of the World Bank on Sunday urged immediate action to deal with mounting food prices that have caused hunger and deadly violence in several countries.

Robert Zoellick said the international community has "to put our money where our mouth is" and act now to help hungry people. "It is as stark as that."



gram with \$500 million in emergency aid it needs by May 1.

He said the bank is granting an additional \$10 million to Haiti for feeding programs, "and I understand others are looking to help."

"It is critical that governments confirm their commitments as soon as possible and others begin to commit," Zoellick said. Prices have only risen further since the WFP issued that appeal, so it is urgent that governments step up, he said.

After a meeting of the bank's policy-setting committee, Zoellick said that the fall of the government in Haiti over the weekend after a wave of deadly rioting and looting over food prices underscores the importance of quick international action. A U.N. police officer was killed Saturday in Haiti's capital.

Zoellick said that international finance meetings are "often about talk," but he noted a "greater sense of intensity and focus" among ministers; now, he said, they have to "translate it into greater action."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Investors await bank earnings this week

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors knew the first three months of the year were bad for companies, but now it looks like they were downright abysmal — and that there might be more pain to come. With the nation's banks releasing their quarterly results this week, anxiety has returned to the stock market. Last week ended on a grim note, with the Dow Jones industrials falling 256 points Friday after General Electric Co. reported a profit decline and lowered its forecast for the year. The Dow finished last week down 2.25 percent, the Standard & Poor's 500 index ended 2.74 percent lower, and the Nasdaq composite index slid 3.41 percent.

Delta, Northwest near announcement

ATLANTA (AP)—Delta and Northwest could announce a combination as early as Tuesday that would create the world's biggest airline, but pilot contract issues still loomed and there was no guarantee the deal would move ahead, three people familiar with the talks said Sunday. The people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation, said officials were mobilizing for an announcement provided the boards of the two companies give final approval to a deal. The boards of both companies have been having ongoing merger-related conversations. They could meet Monday to discuss moving ahead with a deal, a person familiar with the talks said.

Older jets most affected by FAA scrutiny

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rigorous airline maintenance audits recently ordered by federal regulators are likely to yield the most headaches for travelers flying Northwest, American and United airlines. Those carriers have the oldest fleets, on average. The older the jet, the more likely it requires time-consuming, and potentially flight-grounding, government-ordered inspections, analysts and regulators agree. Northwest Airlines Corp.'s fleet of roughly 350 planes has the oldest average age at nearly 18 years old, followed by

AMR Corp.'s American Airlines at 15 years, and UAL Corp.'s United Airlines at 13, according to the companies' most recent annual reports.

35 firms OK'd to bid on Iraq oil deals

AMMAN (AP)—Thirty-five international oil companies have qualified to bid for future oil and gas contracts to develop one of the world's largest oil fields, an Iraqi oil ministry statement said Sunday. "The total number of the companies and consortia that participated in the prequalification process was 120 from various nationalities," said the ministry's petroleum contracts and licensing office. The office listed 35 companies that it said were qualified. They include, among others, BP PLC, Chevron Corp., Exxon Mobil Corp., Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Lukoil Holdings, China National Petroleum Corp., Edison International SpA and Eni SpA. The contracts office, however, said it would continue updating the process of qualifying companies "especially those that didn't pass (the qualification process) by updating their information with the view to allowing as many as possible of the IOCs to participate in the next licensing round."

Newspaper vendors worry about downturn

WASHINGTON (AP)—As newspaper publishers build up their online operations and struggle through an advertising slump, one group is worried about being left behind — the folks who make printing presses and other equipment used to make newspapers. Hoping to allay some of those concerns, a panel of four CEOs of major newspaper companies addressed a group of equipment vendors Sunday at an annual convention of industry suppliers called NEXPO. "We, too, are feeling the pain," said panel moderator Dennis Nierman, president of AlfaQuest Technologies Inc., referring to the steady revenue declines that are plaguing the industry. Nierman, whose company makes a product that allows printing plates to be made from digital files, said it was "discouraging" to see the exhibition floor relatively empty, as it was for part of the day Saturday, the first day of the show.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Obama turns tables on Clinton

STEELTON, Penn. (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama lashed out Sunday at rival Hillary Rodham Clinton, mocking her vocal support for gun rights and saying her record in the Senate and as first lady belied her stated commitment to working class voters and their concerns. "She knows better. Shame on her. Shame on her," Obama told an audience at a union hall here. The Illinois senator has spent three days on the defensive after comments he made at a San Francisco fundraiser were disclosed that suggested working class people are bitter about their economic circumstances and "cling to guns and religion" as a result. Obama reiterated his regret for his choice of words at the fundraiser but suggested they had been twisted and mischaracterized.

2nd college closes because of threats

ROCHESTER, Mich. (AP)—Threatening graffiti found in three men's restrooms led Oakland University to cancel campus classes, sports and cultural activities for two days. The school said it sent out a security alert Saturday after finding one threatening message, and officials said they found similar messages in men's restrooms in two other buildings later that day. The school didn't reveal contents of the threats. But university Police Chief Sam Lucido told the Detroit Free Press that they referred to possible campus attacks on "4/14." That is the same date noted in threatening graffiti found twice this month in a freshman dorm at St. Xavier University in the Chicago area. Officials at the Catholic liberal arts college shut the school down indefinitely on Friday and told students to leave its campuses in Chicago and suburban Orland Park, Ill.

Dalai Lama fears more Chinese force

SEATTLE (AP)—The Dalai Lama said Sunday that Tibet cannot make any more concessions to China and renewed his calls for the government to cease suppression in his former homeland and withdraw troops. The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader denied Chinese claims that he has called for Tibet to be split from China and that he is behind recent turmoil, saying instead that he is committed to pursuing Tibet's right to autonomy. "The whole world knows that the Dalai Lama is not seeking independence, nor separation," he said at a news conference. Recent protests in Tibet against five decades of Chinese rule have been the largest and most sustained in almost two decades and have fueled protests that have disrupted the global torch relay for this summer's Olympic Games in Beijing.

Sect mothers appeal to Texas governor

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—The mothers of children removed from a polygamous sect's ranch in West Texas after an abuse allegation are appealing to Gov. Rick Perry for help, saying some of their children have become sick and even required hospitalization.

In the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, the mothers from the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints also say children are "horrified" by physical examinations they have undergone while in state custody.

The mothers said the letter was mailed Saturday. Perry spokesman Robert Black said Sunday that he had not seen the letter and couldn't comment.

Some 416 children were rounded up and placed in temporary custody in a raid that began April 3 after a domestic violence hot line recorded a complaint from a 16-year-old girl. She said she was physically and sexually abused by her 50-year-old husband.

The one-page letter, signed by three women who claim they represent others, says about 15 mothers were away from the property when their children were removed.

"We were contacted and told our homes had been raided, our children taken away with no explanation, and because of law enforcement blockade preventing entering or leaving the ranch, we were unable to get to our homes and had no-where to go," it said. "As of Wednesday, April 9, 2008, we have been permitted to return to our empty, ransacked homes, heartsick and lonely."

The mothers said they want Perry to examine the conditions in which the removed children have been placed.

"You would be appalled," the letter said. "Many of our children have become sick as a result of the conditions they have been placed in. Some have even had to be taken to the hospital. Our innocent children are continually being questioned on things they know nothing about. The physical examinations were horrifying to the children. The exposure to these conditions is traumatizing them."

Asked about claims that children were hospitalized, state Child Protective Services spokeswoman Marissa Gonzalez said she had not seen the letter and would have to review it before commenting.

Bush readies big welcome for pope

WASHINGTON (AP)—The leader of the world's Roman Catholics has been to the White House only once in history. That changes this week, and President Bush is pulling out all the stops: driving out to a suburban military base to meet Pope Benedict XVI's plane, bringing a giant audience to the South Lawn and hosting a fancy East Room dinner.

These are all firsts.

Bush has never before given a visiting leader the honor of picking him up at the airport. In fact, no president has done so at Andrews Air Force Base, the typical landing spot for modern leaders.

A crowd of up to 12,000 is due at the White House on Wednesday morning for the pope's official, pomp-filled arrival ceremony. It will feature the U.S. and Holy See anthems, a 21-gun salute, and the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. Both men will make remarks before their Oval Office meeting and a send-off for his popemobile down Pennsylvania Avenue.

The White House crowd will be the largest of Bush's presidency. It even beats the audience last spring for Queen Elizabeth II, which numbered about 7,000.

The evening festivities will mark the first time the Bushes have put on a high-profile meal in honor of someone who isn't even a guest. Wednesday is the pontiff's 81st birthday, and the menu celebrates his German



AP
Pope Benedict XVI looks at the cross during the Easter vigil mass in St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, in this March 22, 2008 file photo.

heritage with Bavarian-style food.

But Benedict's prayer service that evening with U.S. bishops at a famed Washington basilica preclude him from coming to the dinner, according to the White House. Catholic leaders will be there instead.

The president explained the special treat-

ment - particularly the airport greeting.

"One, he speaks for millions. Two, he doesn't come as a politician; he comes as a man of faith," Bush told the EWTN Global Catholic Network in an interview aired Friday. He added that he wanted to honor Benedict's conviction that "there's right and wrong in life, that moral relativism has a danger of undermining the capacity to have more hopeful and free societies."

The Bush-Benedict get-together will be the 25th meeting between a pope and a sitting president.

The first did not come until shortly after the end of World War I, when Woodrow Wilson was received at the Vatican by Pope Benedict XV in 1919. The next wasn't for 40 more years, when President Eisenhower saw Pope John XXIII in Rome. President Carter hosted the first White House visit by a pope, when John Paul II came on Oct. 6, 1979.

Since then, such audiences have become a must-do. Every president has met with the pope at least once, often more. This week makes Bush the record-holder, with a total of five meetings with two popes.

There are more than 64 million reasons for this. Catholics number nearly one-quarter of the U.S. population, making them a desirable constituency for politicians to court. Worldwide, there are now an estimated 1 billion Roman Catholics.

2 vessels collide on Mississippi; 18 hurt

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A boat carrying state prison employees collided with a barge on the swollen Mississippi River upstream from Baton Rouge on Sunday, injuring 18 people.

The crewboat, with 20 people aboard, was taking workers who had just ended their shifts across the river, said Angie Norwood, spokeswoman for the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola. No one went into the water, she said.

The employees were first taken to the prison hospital, and 12 were transferred to other hospitals. The two most seriously injured were flown for treatment, Norwood said.

Normally, the maximum-security prison uses a ferry to take workers and their vehicles back and forth from the west side of the river to the prison on the east side.

But crewboats—typically used to move workers to offshore petroleum platforms—had

been used recently because of the high water, Norwood said.

At Baton Rouge, about 40 miles downstream from Angola, the Mississippi is expected to crest April 21 at 42 feet. Flood stage at that point is 35 feet, according to the National Weather Service.

The Coast Guard, which was investigating, could not immediately say whether high water played a role.

Persistent heavy rains to the

north have swollen the busy waterway, leading authorities to open a major spillway for the first time since 1997 in hopes of avoiding problems downriver.

River pilots had voiced worries about the high water, saying it's harder to anchor and navigate in the quick currents.

The Coast Guard had recently limited the number of barges that tugboats could push in the lower Mississippi.

Vt. mother evades rescuers, and 3 die

WARDSBORO, Vt. (AP)—A woman reported missing with her two daughters waded into a brook carrying one of them and eluded a rescue attempt before mother and child were swept downstream to their deaths, police said Sunday. The second child's body was found later.

Searchers found the bodies of Nicole Waring and her 6-year-old daughter Dakota downstream in Wardsboro Brook on Saturday. They found the body of 2 1/2-year-old Grace downstream Sunday.

"For whatever reason, it was a deliberate action," said Vermont State Police Capt. David Covell, who stopped short of calling the river plunge a suicide.

Waring, 40, was reported missing early Saturday after she disappeared from her parents' Wardsboro house with the two girls, the state police said.

As troopers began preparing a search party, State Police Sgt. Robert McCarthy spotted Waring and a child standing on the edge of the brook, about 100



AP
Rescuers use poles to look under rocks and in hidden pockets in the Wardsboro Brook in Wardsboro, Vt. Sunday April 13, 2008 during the search for Grace Waring, 2, who disappeared with her Mother Nicole Waring, 40, of Wolcott, Vt. and sibling Dakota, 6, Saturday.

yards from the parents' home, Covell said.

Authorities said it was deeper on Saturday.

McCarthy tried to talk to Waring, but she ignored him and walked into the water holding the child, police said.

She was standing near a rock

in turbulent, waist-deep water when McCarthy reached for her, but she pushed away from the rock and eluded his grasp, plunging into the water with Dakota in her arms before being swept away, Covell said.

Asia

Modern India still prays for boys

SINGHPURA, India (AP)—Standing in front of his small brick home, in a courtyard where the dirt has been packed down by generations of barefoot children, the middle-aged mustard farmer doesn't bother to hide his exhaustion.

"Only someone who has been through something like this can understand the size of my catastrophe," said Sukhpal Singh Tomar. For years, he has struggled to find some reason for his suffering, but has come up with little. He shrugged: "It must be my karma."

The catastrophe? His daughters—all eight—so many he sometimes stumbles over their names. But his wife, Shanti, never forgets, and the words spill from her like a breathless prayer: "Anu-Jyoti-Poonam-Roshni-Sheetal-Bindu-Chandni-Shezal."

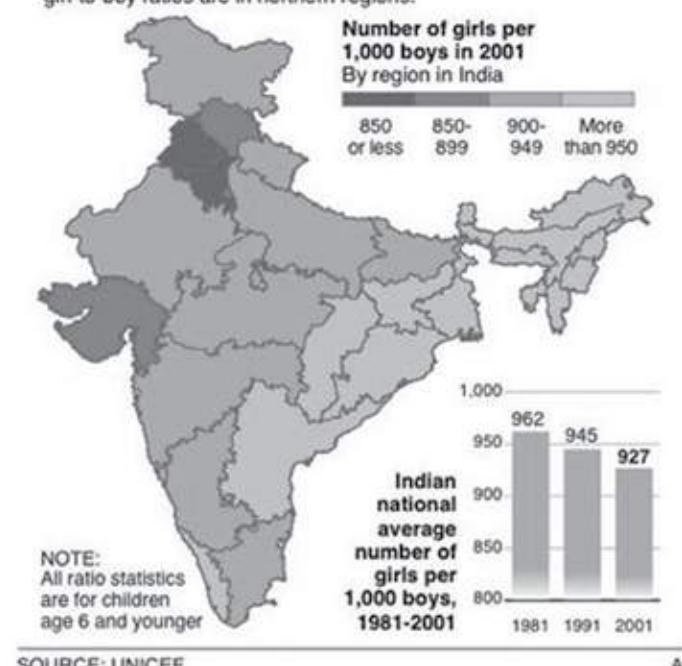
They have been born in a country leaping headfirst into the globalized world but still holding tight to a preference for boys, enlarging an ever-widening gender imbalance in the second most populous nation on earth.

Tomar, 50, said his wife had also had three abortions. Asked if the intent had been to abort female fetuses, he looked silently at the ground.

"It would have been easier to have a son. Even just one," said Shanti, 38, whose stringy hair and worn skin make her look 20 years older. She's holding their youngest girl,

Gender preference evident in India

The ratio in India of girls to boys fell sharply in the past three decades, due in part to sex-selective abortions. The lowest girl-to-boy ratios are in northern regions.



SOURCE: UNICEF

is slowly supplanted by an increasingly educated middle class that wants fewer children—researchers say the problem is only getting worse.

"We're now dealing with attitudes that are spreading," said Sabu George, a prominent activist against the practice. "It's frightening what we're heading to."

While the next national

census will not be done until 2011, giving a detailed overall picture, study after study has found an increasingly grim situation even as India's middle class grows.

While researchers once thought education and wealth would dampen the preference for boys, the reverse has turned out to be true.

According to UNICEF,

about 7,000 fewer girls than expected are born every day in India. According to the British medical journal The Lancet, up to 500,000 female fetuses are being aborted every year. This in a country where abortion is legal but sex-determination tests were outlawed in 1991—a law nearly impossible to enforce, since ultrasound tests leave no trace.

Maoists still in lead in Nepal election

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)

Former communist rebels picked up more seats Sunday in an assembly that will shape Nepal's political future, extending their lead in early election returns.

The Maoists—labeled a terrorist organization by the U.S.—secured 61 seats out of 115 in constituencies where counting was complete and were leading in most other areas where votes were still being tallied, the Election Commission said.

The election for an assembly that will rewrite the constitution has been touted as the cornerstone of the 2006 peace deal with the Maoists, who gave up their 10-year fight to establish a communist state by force. More than 13,000 people died in the insurgency.

It is also a key step in transforming the Himalayan nation into a modern democracy. Major parties have agreed to abolish the country's 239-year-old monarchy at the assembly's first sitting.

The Maoists' strong early showing has surprised most observers, who before the vote had them placing third behind the country's traditional electoral powers, the centrist Nepali Congress and The Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninists).

The Nepali Congress was trailing with only 20 seats and the United Marxist-Leninist had only 18 seats, the commission said.

Arroyo asked to pardon coup plotters

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

The Philippine defense and military chiefs urged President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on Sunday to pardon nine young military officers who publicly apologized after being convicted of staging a failed 2003 coup plot.

Pardoning the officers would bolster Arroyo's efforts to foster reconciliation in a country besieged by communist and Muslim insurgencies, said Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro.

Teodoro and military chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon urged Arroyo in a joint statement to pardon the nine officers, who were convicted and sentenced by a court last week to prison terms of 12 to 40 years.

Esperon said the officers have shown remorse and good behavior during nearly five years of detention, which he said served as a warning that military adventurism was not the way to seek reforms.

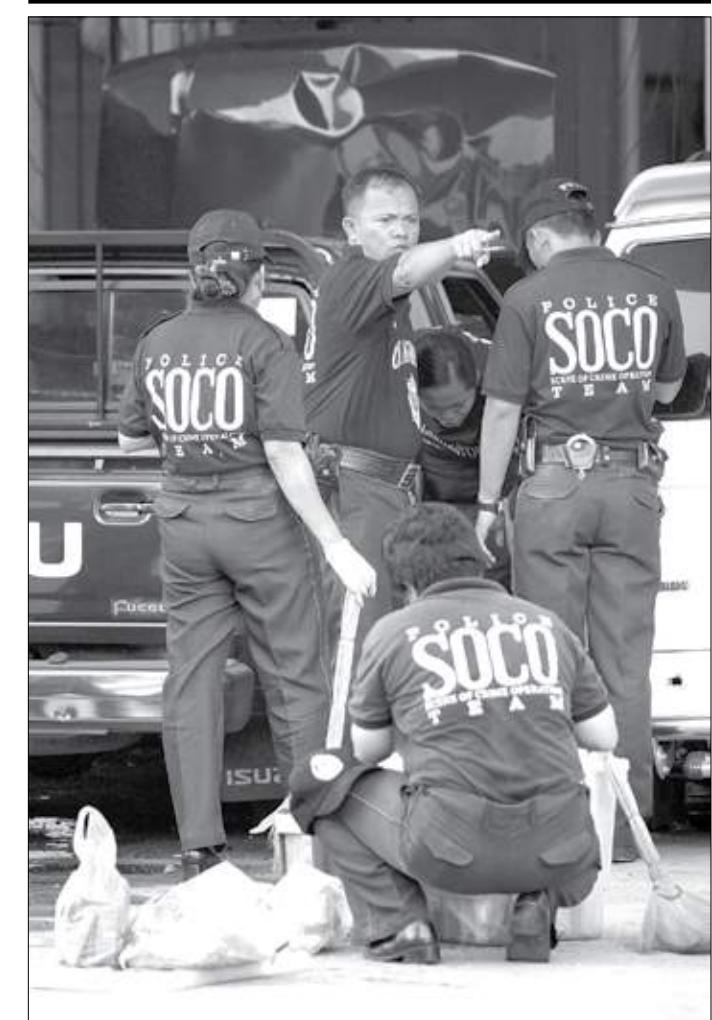
"These junior officers were led astray by wrong beliefs but have realized their grave mistakes," Esperon told reporters.

Arroyo's legal adviser, Sergio Apostol, agreed with Teodoro and Esperon that there were valid grounds to pardon the nine officers. He asked the officers to formally state they would no longer appeal their conviction so it could be declared by the court as final—a requirement for a presidential pardon.

"Offering unity and reconciliation is essential in enticing people who are anti-government and using violence to give up and live in unity with the gov-

ernment," Apostol said.

The most senior among the nine convicted officers, Capt. Gerardo Gambala, read a joint statement in a news conference Friday, acknowledging they had erred in launching the daylong mutiny and asking fellow soldiers not to follow their example.



PHILIPPINE BLAST

Philippine Police investigators look for fragments of a bomb that exploded Sunday, April 13, 2008, at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in the southern port city of Zamboanga. A powerful explosion rips through the Roman Catholic cathedral compound and another bomb explodes near a bank in Zamboanga, causing no injuries but reviving fears of terrorism in an area that has been targeted by al-Qaida-linked militants, police say.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines to accede to UN treaty against torture

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines pledged Sunday to accede to a U.N. protocol that aims to prevent torture and inhumane punishment of detainees by letting independent observers regularly visit jails and other places of detention. Human rights groups have urged the U.N. to take the Philippines to task for allegedly failing to prosecute soldiers suspected of involvement in a series of extrajudicial killings of left-wing activists. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will soon order officials to take steps to formalize her government's accession to the United Nations' Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Cruel and Unusual Punishment, said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Beijing drops restaurants in smoking ban

BEIJING (AP)—Beijing has backtracked on a proposed public smoking ban, saying restaurants will no longer be included due to concerns it will hurt their business, a state-run newspaper reported Monday. Restaurants, bars and Internet cafes will be exempt from a recently announced ban on smoking in public places to start May 1, the China Daily reported. They will now be asked only to have separate smoking and non-smoking areas, it said. China is home to 350 million smokers—a third of the global total.

Sri Lanka's fierce fighting kills dozens

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Fierce fighting between government forces and Tamil Tiger separatists across Sri Lanka's war-ravaged north killed dozens of combatants at the weekend, according to the military and rebels. The military said soldiers killed at least 73 Tamil Tiger rebels in fighting Saturday along the northern front lines, while the rebels said 30 soldiers were killed in the clashes. In the main offensive Saturday, infantry troops backed by artillery and mortar fire pushed into Tamil Tiger-held territory in Mannar district, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

Bird flu case caused by deadly strain

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's government confirmed a fourth outbreak of the H5N1 bird flu virus in the country's southwest Sunday, as the tally of birds slaughtered to control the spread of the disease rose to 1.3 million. Government tests confirmed the latest H5N1 outbreak at a farm in Yeoungam, about 236 miles southwest of Seoul, Agriculture Ministry official Kim Chang-sup said. Earlier this month, South Korea reported its first case of H5N1 in more than a year. Since then, three more H5N1 outbreaks have been confirmed, Kim said. Six further outbreaks were being tested for the deadly strain, he said.

World

1,300 Iraqi troops, police dismissed



A member of Iraqi security forces checks cars at a checkpoint securing road to the Shiite enclave of Sadr City, Baghdad, Sunday, April 13, 2008.

Abbas, Olmert hold surprise meeting

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli and Palestinian leaders got together for surprise talks Sunday, just days before Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas sets off for Washington to meet with President Bush.

An Israeli official said Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert—who sat down together just a week ago—would coordinate peace moves before Abbas' trip. He would not elaborate on what that meant, and spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting's agenda was confidential.

■ ■ ■
JERUSALEM (AP)—Former President Jimmy Carter is getting a cool reception in Israel during his latest visit to the Mideast.

Israeli leaders are shunning the globe-trotting peacemaker for planning to meet with Khaled Mashaal, the head of Israel's archenemy Hamas, and comparing the Jewish state's policies to apartheid.

A schedule released by the Atlanta-based Carter Center showed no plans for the for-



Abbas



Olmert

The 83-year-old former U.S. leader held a closed meeting with Peres shortly after arriving Sunday.

■ ■ ■
Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said Abbas asked Olmert to agree to an Egyptian initiative to arrange an unofficial ceasefire in Gaza, which is controlled by Hamas. But Olmert gave no commitment. Israel refuses to deal with Hamas.

Central America migrant flow to US slows

ARRIAGA, Mexico (AP)—For thousands of illegal immigrants from Central America, the long journey to the U.S. starts here, on the groaning back of a freight train they call The Beast.

But these days many don't get too far.

Central Americans without documents now face increased security within Mexico, including checks on the train for stowaways. It's also harder for them to head north once they cross into Mexico because of hurricane damage to the train tracks.

The result: The number of non-Mexican migrants stopped

mer president to meet any of Israel's key players: Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni or Defense Minister Ehud Barak during this week's visit, which began Sunday.

The only high-ranking official on Carter's schedule was Israel's ceremonial head of state, President Shimon Peres.

Erekat said the meeting took place Sunday because Abbas was leaving soon for the U.S. He is to meet with Bush on April 23.

Israel and the Palestinians renewed negotiations in November at a U.S.-hosted conference in Annapolis, Md., ending a seven-year impasse. The talks have been troubled

by Palestinian militant attacks, by ongoing Israeli construction and military operations in the West Bank, and by the fact that Islamic Hamas militants rule Gaza. Abbas controls only the West Bank.

The U.S. has pressured Israel to ease travel restrictions in the West Bank and give more authority to Palestinian security forces there so that Abbas can point to concrete benefits from peacemaking.

The Palestinians say that Israeli restrictions humiliate them and cripple their economy. Israel says its security measures are vital to prevent Palestinian attacks and that Abbas' security forces are not yet ready to take control.

deron took office two years ago, Mexico has added more soldiers and federal police on its border with Guatemala and more immigration and military checkpoints throughout the south.

Despite its efforts to secure its own southern border, Mexico does not try to stop its own citizens from crossing north illegally into the United States, beyond pursuing drug and people smugglers. By law, Mexico notes, Mexicans can go wherever they want within the country, including the border. They don't break any laws until they are on U.S. soil.

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's government moved Sunday to restore discipline within the ranks of the security forces, sacking more than 1,300 soldiers and policemen who deserted during recent fighting against Shiite militiamen in Basra.

At the same time, Iraq's Cabinet ratcheted up the pressure on anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr by approving draft legislation barring political parties with militias from participating in upcoming provincial elections.

Al-Sadr, who heads the country's biggest militia, the Mahdi Army, has been under intense pressure from Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, also a Shiite, to disband the Mahdi Army or face political isolation.

Al-Sadr's followers are eager to take part in the local elections because they believe they can take power away from rival Shiite parties in the vast, oil-rich Shiite heartland of southern Iraq.

And in a new move to stem the flow of money to armed groups, the government ordered a crackdown on militiamen controlling state-run and private gas stations, refineries and oil distri-

bution centers.

It is believed that gas stations and distribution centers, especially in eastern Baghdad and some southern provinces, are covertly controlled by Shiite militiamen dominated by the Mahdi Army.

The failure of government forces to capture Basra despite superiority in numbers and firepower was an embarrassment to al-Maliki, who ordered the offensive and personally supervised it during the first week.

It also raised questions whether Iraq's mostly Shiite army and police can confront Shiite militias, including Iranian-backed "special groups," which the U.S. command now considers the greatest threat to Iraqi democracy with the diminishing influence of al-Qaida in Iraq.

National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley said Iran is very active in southern Iraq.

"So we have illegal militia in the southern part of the country that really are acting as criminal elements that are pressing the people down there and, in good measure, as we've seen, alienating the Iraqis from Iran," Hadley told "Fox News Sunday."

Kenyan president Kibaki names rival as PM

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—President Mwai Kibaki named opposition leader Raila Odinga as prime minister Sunday, implementing a long-awaited power-sharing deal aimed at resolving a political crisis that left more than 1,000 people dead.

The deal marks the first time Kenya will have both a president and prime minister. But the working relationship between Kibaki and Odinga, which has been frosty in the past, will determine how long the coalition lasts.

The two men agreed in February to share power after a dispute over who won Kenya's December presidential election triggered weeks of unrest that killed more than 1,000 people and uprooted 300,000 from their homes.

But negotiations over the Cabinet dragged on, and the public grew impatient. Scuffles broke out for three days last week between police and residents protesting the delay in Kenya's largest slum, Kibera.



STAR ATTRACTION

Keeper Steffi Krueger accompanies 4-month-old polar bear cub Flocke during her first outdoor trip to her enclosure at the zoo in Nuremberg, southern Germany, on Sunday, April 13, 2008. With all the fanfare of a record release or movie premiere, Nuremberg city and zoo officials introduced Germany's latest polar bear cub Tuesday to a public eager for its first live glimpse of her, after months of having their heartstrings tugged with photos and video of the furry imp. Several thousand visitors came to the zoo over the weekend to have a look on the polar bear cub.

Overdrive

Lamborghini Reventon: The best car you'll never drive

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2007, THE WASHINGTON POST

SANT' AGATA BOLOGNESE, Italy—Extremism in pursuit of power and technical superiority is no vice. That is the guiding principle of Lamborghini, a small car company long accustomed to making the world's most expensive and most extravagant automotive statements.

Located in this tiny village in North Italy, Lamborghini, founded in 1963 by Ferruccio Lamborghini, has a history of trying to outdo itself and everyone else in pursuit of the ultimate sports car, which usually means turning out the fastest, most powerful automobile that any carmaker legally could put on the street.

The most extreme representation of that corporate philosophy is the Lamborghini Reventon (the "v" is pronounced like "b"), which I was allowed to drive here under the watchful eyes of Lamborghini officials.

Their caution was understandable. The Reventon is a 650-horsepower, 12-cylinder super-coupe valued at the U.S. equivalent of \$1.45 million. Only 20 copies of the Reventon are being made. All of them have been sold—11 in the United States, seven in Europe, and two in Asia.

That meant I was driving somebody's car, which required accompaniment by a skilled Lamborghini test driver and engineer, Mario Frasinetti.

I insisted that Mario drive first. For one thing, I wanted to see how a professional driver would handle the motorized beast. For another, I was scared witless. I had never driven a car



The Reventon is a 650-horsepower, 12-cylinder super-coupe valued at the U.S. equivalent of \$1.45 million. Only 20 copies of the Reventon are being made. AP

with that much power and that kind of price.

Mario, of course, made everything look easy. He keyed the ignition, pressed the right carbon-fiber paddle shifter behind the steering wheel, put the all-wheel-drive car into first gear and—*whoosh!*

The Reventon, which shares many underpinnings with the Lamborghini Murcielago LP640, is controlled via a six-speed automated manual transmission. "Automated manual"? Yes. Like many race cars, it has a manual transmission in which the driver does put a left foot on the clutch. Gear shifts are executed via two carbon-fiber paddle shifters—one on the right for moving into the lower gears and another on the left for higher gears.

Mario played those shifters smoothly and swiftly, with the Reventon instantly responding to his inputs. We ascended mountainsides sans railings. I dared not look over ledges of those unguarded high roads. I wouldn't have seen much anyway. The Reventon was moving so fast, everything was a blur.

We arrived at what Mario considered a safe spot for a driver exchange. "It's an easy car to drive," he said. "You'll do fine."

He turned out to be right. But doing fine first meant forgetting that the car costs \$1.45 million and that it was someone else's car, and that it could move from zero to 62 mph in a scary 3.4 seconds.

I tried to obey posted speed limits, which only created traf-

fic problems. When Mario was behind the Reventon's wheel, the car moved so fast that no one else on the road could even think about keeping up with him. When I drove, the car moved slowly enough to tempt people to pull up alongside of it and take photos with their camera phones. At a stoplight, one teen-ager who was following me in what appeared to be a Fiat jumped out of his car and ran in front of the Reventon to take pictures—an image hijack likely destined for the Internet.

I enjoyed the drive. The purposefully sculpted Reventon handled beautifully. I say "purposefully sculpted" because there is absolutely nothing about the car's mostly carbon fiber exterior that does not contribute to speed and handling. It looks

like a stealth fighter jet because it is meant to perform like one on the road.

That raises the question: Why buy a car like the Reventon, the full power of which never could be used legally on any highway anywhere in the world, including Germany's Autobahn, which has speed restrictions in urban areas and is likely soon to have speed restrictions everywhere.

The answer can be found in the assembly bays at the Lamborghini factory, which annually can produce 2,500 Lamborghini automobiles of all types, and which is where the Reventon was designed and developed and where it is now made. The men and women working in the plant are not workers in the generic sense. They are artisans who approach their work with discernible pride.

Lamborghini officials claim that the Reventon can be driven "every day." Truth is, that is not likely to be how the car's buyers will use it. Most will store it in a well-equipped garage, to be driven only on special occasions. Others might load it onto a car carrier for a weekend at the track, where they will attempt to drive the car to its limits. And others simply will hold it as an investment to be sold later to the highest bidder.

But no one will drive it every day. The desire to keep the precious car safe thus will have other benefits. The gas-guzzling Reventon—7.35 miles per gallon city, 15.68 mpg highway—seldom will be about the business of guzzling gas and polluting the air. It simply will exist as an example of rare, extreme mobile art.

CRUISIN'

GTO transmission

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, could you please tell me if the M13 Trans listed on my 1972 GTO build sheet (enclosed) is indeed the 3-speed manual that you talked of in a recent column? If so, where can I purchase one, as I would like to get my GTO to its original condition and shape? You do a great job in your articles. Thanks.—L.C. Honeycutt, Dunn, N.C.

A: Thanks, L.C. The transmission listed on the build sheet you sent me is indeed the Heavy Duty 3-speed transmission I wrote about recently in this column. It is called either a Dearborn (1965-1969) or Muncie (1970-1973) M13 unit and utilizes the code M13 on the sheets. Surprisingly, a 3-speed transmission was the standard transmission for all GTOs from 1964 through 1972; although, in its initial year of 1964, the 3-speed was an M12 unit made by Muncie. After March 1965, GTO switched to the stronger M13 Dearborn (Ford-style) unit. In 1974, the last year of initial GTO production, an M11 made by Saginaw became the standard 3-speed, replacing the Muncie M13 that came in GTO's from 1970 to 1973.

Four speeds were available in GTO's, notably the Muncie M20 wide ratio, M21 close ratio and M22 rock crusher.

As for M13 availability, my best advice is to check eBay Motors regularly, or pick up Hemmings Motor News and Auto Roundup magazines. You may want to consider an ad in either of the two publications under "Parts Wanted," and I feel confident you'll find your M13. If you want to talk to an expert, contact D&L Transmission at 1-631-351-4837, and they may be able to help quickly. D&L is located in Long Island, N.Y., and known as specialists for GTO transmissions and all hard-to-find Muncie and Saginaw units.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send an e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Autos becoming vibrant electronics hub

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The deep bass sound vibrates your breastbone as you meander through a corner of the massive International Consumer Electronics Show. Someone is simply showing off car audio systems, but it feels like the vehicles themselves are announcing their beefy presence.

And why not? Cars and automotive technologies from startups and established aftermarket makers are abundant at this gadget show. They're coming in such variety that they encapsulate many of the advances seen elsewhere at CES in cell phones, TVs, video games and wireless Internet networking.

For example, one theme at CES is the development of touch-screen and voice-activated controls for portable devices. Cars are showing that off, too, with systems that let people make phone calls, navigate, choose music and have

e-mails read to them without dangerously fumbling for manual controls.

Or look how CES overall is highlighting the widening availability of Internet content. Autonet Mobile Inc. offers a small box for car trunks that takes a cellular broadband signal and uses Wi-Fi to relay it to portable computers in the car, so people can browse the Internet in the vehicle. And while the car is parked near a home wireless network, people can beam music and video content to it for enjoyment on upcoming road trips.

"The car is a lifestyle product," said Sterling Pratz, Autonet Mobile's CEO. "It's not just a car anymore."

The goal of all this stuff is to keep drivers better informed and their passengers entertained. But no one seems to have a great answer to the question of whether

adding more technological choices to moving vehicles will increase the dangerous problem of driver distraction.

Automobiles have had technological accouterments ever since the advent of the car radio. In-vehicle technologies were an \$11 billion market in 2007, according to the Consumer Electronics Association, and it is expected to jump to \$12.8 billion this year.

But the auto and the electronics industries have not been closely linked. Attempts in the 1990s at connecting cars to the Internet flopped.

One complicating factor has been that car makers design for a much longer future than gadget makers, which expect buyers to dig back into their pockets virtually every year. So automakers that select particular electronics might get locked into formats or functions that are

obsolete when the car is still young, or even by the time it finally makes it to showroom floors. Aftermarket vendors have often filled the gap.

Now, though, factory-installed technologies are getting more powerful. One example is the way Ford Motor Co. has teamed with Microsoft Corp. on Sync, a voice-activated communication and entertainment system.

One reason for automakers' increasing comfort is that powerful computers now found in cars can get software updates fired in by wireless networks, letting vendors fix bugs and keep features up to date, said Erik Goldman, president of Hughes Telematics Inc. His company is expected to begin outfitting Chrysler and Mercedes cars with a navigation, entertainment and diagnostics service in 2009.

27th Annual NMC Charter Day



NMC COLLEGE MONTH

Acting Gov. Timothy Villagomez signs the proclamation declaring the month of April 2008 as College Month while Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, former NMC president Tony Deleon Guerrero, and NMC board of regents members look on at the Northern Marianas College As Terlaje Campus Friday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



NMC Carolinian Club booth won the best booth award during the Charter Day festivities.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

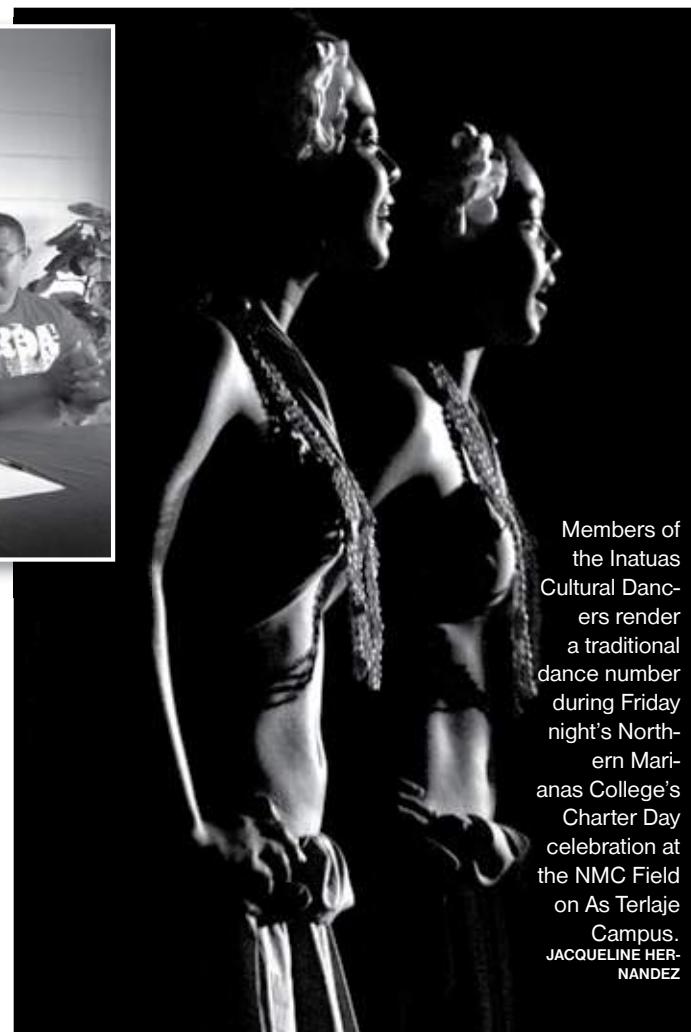


Saipan Grand Hotel's Zynergy Band performs for the annual event.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Members of the Final Extreme group hit the stage with a dance performance.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Members of the Inatua Cultural Dancers render a traditional dance number during Friday night's Northern Marianas College's Charter Day celebration at the NMC Field on As Terlaje Campus.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Marianas Idol competition winner Tanya Dela Cruz, 17, performs the song *Stand up for Love* during the Northern Marianas College's Charter Day celebration Friday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Five-year-old Alex Amaro poses as the Black Spiderman after he got his face painted at the NMC Nursing Club booth.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



The Burning Bush band entertains the crowd during the grand party held at the NMC field.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



NMC's Miss Pugua Tina Turnover has the crowd rolling with laughter during his performance.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NMC English club members perform a traditional Thai dance number.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



22nd American Red Cross Walkathon



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A child gets her face painted during the annual event.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Marianas Health Services Severo Siasoyco checks the blood pressure of Jessica Ortiz after the walkathon.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A giant Red Cross flag waves high during the 22nd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon at the 4H Building in Susupe Saturday morning.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The hardworking officials and volunteers of the NMI chapter of the American Red Cross gather for a photo.



Children enjoy their morning jumping inside the bounce house.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Eleven-year-old Michael So pets a duckling at the Mini Petting Zoo booth during the 22nd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon event.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of Saipan residents gather near the 4H Building in Susupe for the 22nd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Children show off the animals at the Mini Petting Zoo.

Life & Style

Craig sheds 007 charm for new film

LONDON (AP)—He's a style icon known to millions as suave superspy James Bond.

So it could be called ironic that Daniel Craig feels at home playing an aging, miserable actor in the low-budget British film "Flashbacks of a Fool."

But Craig says it would be "terribly easy" to become like his character Joe Scot, an embittered, fading star who finds no amount of Hollywood hedonism can fill the void within.

"He has failed as a human being, and I wanted to explore that," Craig told reporters Sunday at the film's world premiere in London.

"I think you have to work hard at not becoming disillusioned about what you do for a living," Craig said. "If you have any success in what you do for a living, you have to maintain an energy and love of it. If you can, that's a great thing."

Craig attended Sunday's London premiere midway through filming on his second Bond thriller, "Quantum of Solace," which is due for release later this year.

The actor has not always seemed comfortable with the level of attention he has received since being cast as 007 in 2005. "Flashbacks" is a return to small-scale, personal projects for Craig. It was written and directed by his longtime friend Baillie Walsh, best known as a director of videos and documen-

ties for bands including INXS, Massive Attack and Oasis.

A coming-of-age drama centered on Joe's teenage years in the 1970s, the film veers—at times erratically—between wistfulness, tragedy and spiky humor. It has a strong British cast that includes Helen McRory, Olivia Williams and Harry Eden as the young Joe, a soundtrack of vintage David Bowie and Roxy Music, and fantastic seaside scenery—set in a suspiciously sunny English seaside town. It was actually filmed in South Africa.

Craig said the film was "a personal journey" for him.

"The film touches on a lot of things we all went through—

electrifying moments when you're a teenager which form who you are as a human being," Craig said. "I think Baillie has captured that so well."

"I hit 40 this year, but I still think about being a teenager, and hopefully I will for the rest of my life."

And Craig says he has discovered an upside to his new fame—the power to get projects like "Flashbacks" made. Craig has an executive producer credit on the film, and his clout helped greenlight the script, which Walsh wrote for him several years ago.

"If I can be responsible, even slightly, for getting movies like this off the ground—movies I can be proud of like this one ... then I am going to get a huge amount of enjoyment out of it," Craig said.



AP

British actor Daniel Craig, left, arrives with Satsuki Mitchell at the world premiere of "Flashbacks of a Fool" at a cinema in central London, Sunday, April 13, 2008.

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Nim's Island

 Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20
Jodie Foster, Abigail Breslin
 Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

College Road Trip

 Friday 4:25 7:05 9:35
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:05 9:35
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:05
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:05
Martin Lawrence, Raven Symone
 Comedy • Rated G

Leatherheads

 Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:25 9:40
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
George Clooney, Renée Zellweger
 Sports, Comedy • Rated PG13

Drillbit Taylor

 Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00
 Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00
 Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15
Owen Wilson, Alex Frost
 Comedy • Rated PG13

Superhero Movie

 Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
 Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45
 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:00
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00
Drake Bell, Sara Paxton
 Comedy, Satire • Rated PG13

Synopsis
 After being bitten by a genetically altered dragonfly, high school loser Rick Riker develops superhuman abilities like incredible strength and armored skin. Rick decides to use his new powers for good and becomes a costumed crime fighter known as "The Dragonfly." However, standing in the way of his destiny is the villainous Lou Landers. After an experiment gone wrong, Lou develops the power to steal a person's life force and in a dastardly quest for immortality becomes the supervillain, "The Hourglass."

Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who

 Friday 4:20 @ @
 Saturday 1:15 4:20 @ @
 Sunday 1:15 4:20 @ @
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 @
Jim Carrey (v), Steve Carell (v)
 Family, Animated • Rated G

Definitely Maybe

 Friday 4:05 @ @
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 @ @
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 @ @
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 @
Ryan Reynolds, Abigail Breslin
 Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13

10,000 BC

 Friday @ 7:10 9:50
 Saturday @ @ 7:10 9:50
 Sunday @ @ 7:10
 Mon thru Thurs @ 7:10
Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
 Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13

Never Back Down

 Friday @ 7:30 9:55
 Saturday @ @ 7:30 9:55
 Sunday @ @ 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs @ 7:30
Sean Faris, Djimon Hounsou
 Action, Drama • Rated PG13

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NEW YORK (AP)—Author J.K. Rowling is eager to tell a judge this week that one of her biggest fans is in fantasyland if he believes a "Harry Potter" encyclopedia he plans to publish does not violate her copyrights.

The showdown between Rowling and Steven Vander Ark is scheduled to last most of the week in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

Rowling is scheduled to testify Monday in a trial that is sure to generate huge interest among Harry Potter fans and the public. Her lawyer has arranged with the judge to have a private security guard for Rowling in the courtroom and for the author to spend breaks in the seclusion of a jury room—away from any die-hard Potter fans in attendance.

The trial comes eight months after Rowling published her seventh and final book in the widely popular Harry Potter series. The books have been published in 64 languages, sold more than 400 million copies and spawned a film franchise that has pulled in \$4.5 billion at the worldwide box office.

Rowling brought the lawsuit last year against Vander Ark's publisher, RDR Books, to stop publication of the "Harry Potter Lexicon."

Rowling is actually a big fan of the Harry Potter Lexicon Web site that Vander Ark runs. But she draws the line when it comes to publishing the book and charging \$24.95. She also says it fails to include any of the commentary and discussion that enrich the Web site and calls it "nothing more than a rearrangement" of her own material.

One of her lawyers, Dan Shallman, on Friday told Judge Robert P. Patterson, who will

hear the trial without a jury, that Rowling "feels like her words were stolen."

He said the author felt so personally violated that she made her own comparisons between her seven best-selling novels and the lexicon and was ready to testify about the similarities in dozens of instances.

David Saul Hammer, a lawyer for RDR Books, which plans to sell the lexicon, said the publisher will not challenge the claim by Rowling that much of the material in the lexicon infringed her copyrights.

But the judge will decide whether the use of the material by the small Muskegon, Mich., publisher was legal because it was used for some greater purpose, such as a scholarly pursuit.

In court papers filed prior to the trial, Rowling said she was "deeply troubled" by the book.

"If RDR's position is accepted, it will undoubtedly have a significant, negative impact on the freedoms enjoyed by genuine fans on the Internet," she said. "Authors everywhere will be forced to protect their creations much more rigorously, which could mean denying well-meaning fans permission to pursue legitimate creative activities."

In court papers, Vander Ark, 50, said he was a teacher and school librarian in Byron Center, Mich., before recently moving to London to begin a career as a writer.

He said he joined an adult online discussion group devoted to the books in 1999 before launching his own Web site as a hobby a year later. Since then, neither Rowling nor her publisher had ever complained about anything on it, he said.

In May 2004, he said, Rowling mentioned his Web site on her own, writing, "This is such a great site that I have been known to sneak into an Internet cafe while out writing and check a fact rather than go into a bookshop and buy a copy of Harry Potter (which is embarrassing). A web site for the dangerously obsessive; my natural home."

The Web site attracts about 1.5 million page views per month and contributions from people all over the world, Vander Ark said.

He said he initially declined proposals to convert the Web site into an encyclopedia, in part because he believed until last August that in book form, it would represent a copyright violation.

After Rowling released the final chapter in the Harry Potter series that same month, Vander Ark was contacted by an RDR Books employee, who told him that publication of the lexicon would not violate copyright law, he said.

Still, to protect himself, Vander Ark said he insisted that RDR Books include a clause in his contract that the publisher would defend and pay any damages that might result from claims against him.

He said it was decided that the lexicon would include sections from the Lexicon Web site that give descriptions and commentary on individual names, places, spells and creatures from Harry Potter stories.

In his court statement, Vander Ark still sounds like a fan, saying the lexicon "enhances the pleasure of readers of the Potter novels, and deepens their appreciation of Ms. Rowling's achievement."

But the affection no longer seems a shared experience.

In court Friday, Hammer said Rowling's lawyers did not want Vander Ark in the courtroom while Rowling testifies.

Cate Blanchett gives birth to third son

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Actress Cate Blanchett has given birth to her third child, a spokesman said Monday.

Blanchett, 38, delivered son Ignatius Martin Upton on Sunday

in Sydney, said Tim McKeough, media relations manager at the Sydney Theatre Company, where Blanchett and her playwright husband are co-artistic directors.

"All are well and very happy,"

McKeough said.

The newborn weighed 7.94 pounds, he said.

Blanchett and husband Andrew Upton have two other sons: Dashiell, 6, and Roman, 3.

The Academy Award-winning actress next appears with Harrison Ford in the movie "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," due in theaters in May.

1 teen remains jailed in videotaped beating

BARTOW, Fla. (AP)—Only one of the eight teens accused of participating in the videotaped beating of a classmate remained behind bars Sunday, after a seventh bonded out, authorities said.

Brittany Mayes, 17, was released on \$33,000 bond, said Polk County Sheriff's Office spokesman Scott Wilder. Still jailed is Stephen Schumaker, 18.

The teens, the youngest of whom is 14, face kidnapping and misdemeanor battery charges for the violent beating, which has been viewed widely on national television and the Internet. The state attorney's office has said the six girls and two boys will be tried as adults.

One of the accused, 17-year-old Mercedes Nichols, was bailed out by employees of the "Dr. Phil" television show over the weekend.

Phone listings for the families of Mayes, Schumaker and Nichols could not be found Sunday. The company that bonded out Mayes, Bridgett Bail Bonds, declined to comment.

A spokeswoman for host Phil McGraw, Terri Corigliano, did not respond to phone messages and an e-mail sent by The Associated Press on Sunday. In an e-mail Saturday night, Corigliano wrote that "certain staff members went beyond our guidelines" in paying the bond.

"These staff members have been spoken to and our policies reiterated," she wrote. "In addition, we have decided not to go forward with the story as our guidelines have been compromised."

The show's producers were in the process of booking guests for a program about the case, Corigliano said.



PROMO TOUR

U.S. actress Jodie Foster gestures during the RAI Italian state television show "Che Tempo che Fa", in Milan, Italy, Thursday, April 10, 2008. Foster is in Italy to promote her latest film "Nim's Island".

Siblings planning anniversary can ignore party-pooper mom

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My parents will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year, so my siblings and I have been trying to plan something special.

I asked my mother what she would like us to do. Her response was she didn't want to tell me what to do, for us just to decide. When we suggested a Caribbean cruise, she said Dad didn't want to be on the water. So we planned a vacation in Mexico. Mom said she didn't want to get passports. Then I suggested a big party with family and friends. She said she would be hurt if people didn't show up. I asked Dad what he wanted to do; he suggested a trip to New York. Mother shot that idea down, too.

My siblings and I have put months into planning this effort, and Mom is not making it an easy process. We even staged an "intervention" with all of us kids and Mom and Dad. We sat down and brainstormed ideas that might please her, even offering to give them several thousand dollars to spend as they wish. Nothing is good enough for Mom.

I am frustrated. If I do nothing, she'll be upset with me and hold a grudge. If I plan something, it won't be the right thing. At 45 years of age, I just want to do ONE thing right in my mother's eyes. Help me, please.

—NEAR TEARS IN HENDERSON, COLO.

DEAR NEAR TEARS: The name for the behavior your mother is displaying is "passive-aggression." Because you say you would like to do "one" thing right in her eyes, I assume it has been going on since you were quite young. The advice I am offering is not what you expect. Here it is: STOP TRYING TO PLEASE YOUR MOTHER. It is impossible to accomplish.

You and your siblings should throw the party with family and friends. Do not show your mother the guest list; that way she cannot be hurt if someone doesn't show up. And make it a "surprise party." Do not expect to please your mother. She's not pleasurable, and the sooner you accept that fact, the better off you will be.

DEAR ABBY: Because of a sudden, life-threatening illness, I had to leave my job. During the time I worked there, I cultivated (I thought) some great friendships. Now I am heartbroken to realize the friendships I so valued were not valued in return.

One woman broke off our phone conversation with, "I have to take this call. I'll call you right back." It has been nearly six months, and I'm still waiting for that returned call. I know I could have called her back, but I seem to be the only one initiating contact. Perhaps my one or two calls a month became too much for her.

There must be others in similar situations. My question is, should I write this "friendship" off?

—SADDENED IN TAYLORVILLE, ILL.

DEAR SADDENED: Yes. Some people are so afraid of death that when someone close—a friend, family member or spouse—is stricken with a life-threatening illness, instead of stepping forward and offering support, they physically or emotionally run in the opposite direction.

Why cling to this person? When the chips are down, she couldn't face it. And that, in my book, is not true friendship.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Q and A: Fashion

Excerpts from a recent *Washington Post* online reader chat with Suzanne D'Amato, deputy editor for The Post's Sunday Source. In this chat: Style at the office.

Q: What is the general rule about wearing pantyhose in an office environment? Also, does the faux pas of wearing white before Memorial Day still stand?

A: Generally speaking, you can get away without pantyhose in all but the most conservative offices during the summertime. If you're doubtful, look around at what other women in your office (particularly those more senior than you) are wearing,

and dress accordingly. Now, white before Memorial Day? That rule's been out of date for a decade at least!

Q: I work in a conservative office and the general trend here has been once it gets above, say, 70 degrees, hose are completely optional. Although I would say this past winter I've seen a lot more women (of different ages) opting out completely. And of course, if you're required to wear hose in your office in the summer, no open-toed sandals! I occasionally see women in peep-toed pumps with hose, and please—just don't.

A: Peep-toe pumps and hose are a deadly combination, I agree. It does seem that

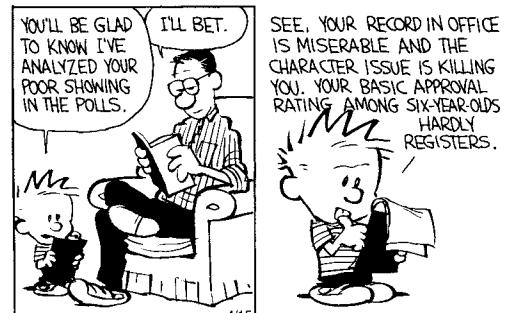
by July just about everyone has decided to go bare-legged.

Q: Suggestions for an interview outfit for a business-casual workplace in hot and humid weather?

A: Try a cropped suit jacket over a breezy top that's a few inches longer than your jacket. You could even try a tank — after all, you won't be taking off your jacket during the interview. Wide-leg slacks that coordinate with your jacket (without being a perfect match) will look chic without seeming too suit-y. I'd definitely wear close-toe shoes to an interview, but if yours are chic flats you might be able to go sans stockings. (© 2008, *The Washington Post*)

Pastimes

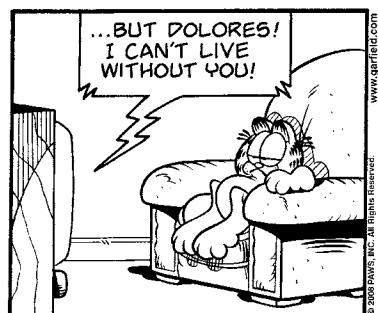
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



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By Jim Davis

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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emma Watson, 18; Seth Rogen, 26; Emma Thompson, 49; Roy Clark, 75

Happy Birthday: Work a little harder, plan a little better, organize a little more and you will overcome any obstacle that confronts you. Keep things within budget, time restraints and boundaries. You've got the energy and imagination to go it alone and come out on top. Your numbers are 11, 17, 25, 28, 30, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can change the way people think, especially with a project you believe in or something you think might be fun or interesting. Use your talents and you will attract new friends and will provide opportunities to get involved in something entertaining.  

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You will feel like having fun and releasing any inhibitions you may be harboring but that may not be wise if you are having a problem with someone in your life. Speaking out when you are emotional or overindulgent will lead to trouble.  

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put extra effort into your personal life and it will make a difference to someone who counts in your life. Love is on the rise and your part in functions that are of a do-good nature will raise your popularity. You can meet someone who relates to you on many different levels.  

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may fool others but don't think that by doing so you will get away with something long-term. Eventually the truth will come out, so

you may as well face facts. Your intent may be to spare feelings but it will only make matters worse.  

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't give up on your dreams. If someone from your past can help you out, don't be too proud to call him or her. You'll be surprised by the response you get if you are well-informed and have strategic plans.  

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Let your thoughts be known and present your ideas. You may be a little emotional but that will aid you in expressing yourself passionately. You will feel much better once you have everything out in the open.  

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be in a bit of a dream world. Before you start to implement your ideas, make sure they are feasible. Take things one step at a time. Love is in the stars if you make love, not war.  

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get down to business and you will feel good about what you get done. Your serious approach to what you do will impress the people who count and help you feel more confident about the end result. Travel and presentation should go hand-in-hand.  

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful with whom you talk and what you say. You are likely to give out some invalid information that will hurt someone's reputation. Consider that you may be pushing for something that has added problems attached.  

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you want to impress someone by overspending, overindulging or overdoing, you will send the wrong message. Consider whether or not you really want to make a connection to someone who is so much work. Question motives.  

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be fooled by someone who wants something from you. Look at the big picture. As long as you keep things in perspective, you will not be taken, emotionally or financially.  

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do your own research—don't count on others to hand you information. Question whatever sounds unreasonable. It's your life and your future and you are responsible for the outcome.  

Birthday Baby: You are determined and relentless. You are motivated and enthusiastic about what interests you. You are entertaining, creative and a powerful competitor. You are quick to judge and to make decisions.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3	7		1						
			6			4			
8	5	2							
3	2								
1	3	9	7	4					
			6	8					
1	6	4		5					
4	8								
6	1	4							
3	8	9	1	2	5	4	7	6	

Difficulty Level ★★

4/15

1	6	8	9	5	2	7	4	3
7	4	2	3	6	8	5	1	9
9	3	5	7	1	4	6	2	8
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4	7	6	2	8	3	9	5	1
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3	8	9	1	2	5	4	7	6
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6	2	7	4					

CLASSIFIED ADS



FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

WHATZIT Solution: The Three Bears

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**Au naturel
Birthday suit
In the buff**

Find today's solution in this section

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

- 3-Liner
- 5-Liner
- 3-Liner with picture
- 5-Liner with picture

COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)

\$25	\$25
\$35	\$35
\$45	\$45
\$55	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

3-LINER AD

\$25

3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO

\$45

5-LINER AD

\$35

5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO

\$55

Get results. Advertise now!

Call Gina, Bing, Annie or Pauline
at 235-2769 for more details.

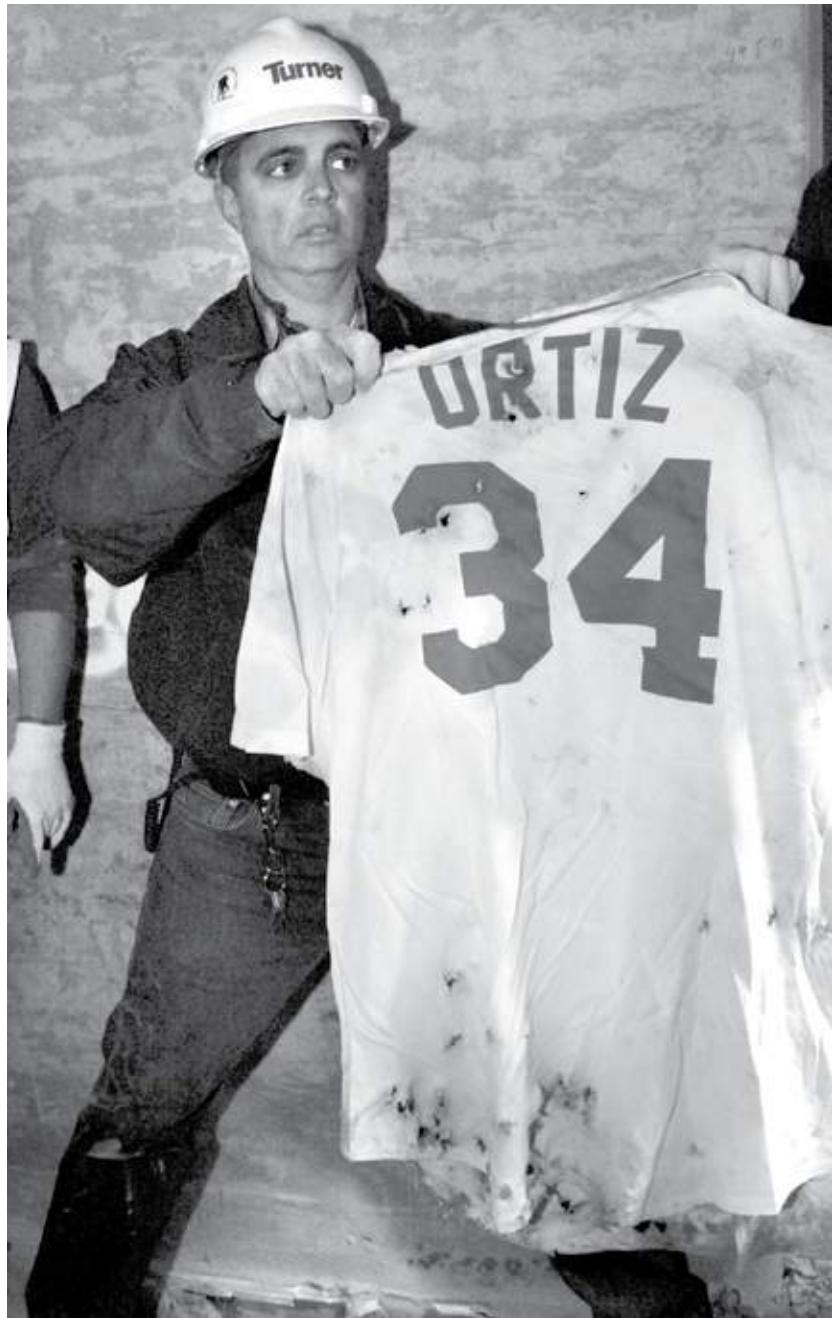
Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



NY Yankees fend off new stadium 'curse'



AP
Frank Gramarossa, project executive for the new Yankee Stadium, displays a Boston Red Sox jersey with the name of player David Ortiz that was removed from the ground at the new Yankee Stadium in New York, Sunday, April 13, 2008.



NEW YORK
(AP)—A construction worker's bid to curse the

New York Yankees by planting a Boston Red Sox jersey in their new stadium was foiled Sunday when the home team removed the offending shirt from its burial spot.

After locating the shirt in a service corridor behind what will be a restaurant in the new Yankee Stadium, construction workers jackhammered through the concrete Sunday and pulled it out.

The team said it learned that a Sox-rooting construction worker had buried a shirt in the new Bronx stadium, which will open next year across the street from the current ballpark, from a report in the New York Post on Friday.

Yankees President Randy Levine said team officials at first considered leaving the shirt where it was.

"The first thought was, you know, it's never a good thing to be buried in cement when you're in New York," Levine said. "But then we decided, why reward somebody who had really bad motives and was trying to do a really bad thing?"

On Saturday, construction workers who remembered the employee, Gino Castignoli, phoned in tips about the shirt's location.

"We had anonymous people come tell us where it was, and we were able to find it," said Frank Gramarossa, a project executive with Turner Construction, the

general contractor on the site.

It took about five hours of drilling Saturday to locate the shirt under 2 feet of concrete, he said.

On Sunday, Levine and Yankees CEO Lonn Trost watched as Gramarossa and foreman Rich Corrado finished the job and pulled the shirt from the rubble.

In shreds from the jackhammers, the shirt still bore the letters "Red Sox" on the front. It was a David Ortiz jersey, No. 34.

Trost said the Yankees had discussed possible criminal charges against Castignoli with the district attorney's office.

"We will take appropriate action since fortunately we do know the name of the individual," he said.

A woman who answered the phone at Castignoli's home in the Bronx on Sunday said he was not there.

A spokesman for Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson said Sunday he did not know whether any criminal charges might apply.

Levine said the shirt would be cleaned up and sent to the Jimmy Fund, a charity affiliated with Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Along with that, New York will send a Yankees Universe T-shirt, which is sold to benefit Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

"Hopefully the Jimmy Fund will auction it off and we'll take the act that was a very, very bad act and turn it into something beautiful," he said.

Maddux wins 349th in MLB, pitches Padres past Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Greg Maddux recorded his 349th career victory in Major League Baseball one day before his 42nd birthday and Paul McAnulty drove in the only run with a sacrifice fly, leading the San Diego Padres to a 1-0 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday.

Maddux (2-0) threw 68 pitches over five innings, allowing two hits and a walk while striking out two. The four-time Cy Young winner has made nine of his 35 career starts against the Dodgers in April, going 8-0 with a 1.11 ERA in that month.

Trevor Hoffman, the all-time saves leader, pitched a scoreless ninth for his fourth of the season and 528th of his career.

Nationals 5, Braves 4

In Washington, Atlanta starter Tom Glavine left with an injury before recording an out, and the Washington Nationals ended their nine-game losing streak.

Glavine (0-1) matched the shortest start of his 22-season, 303-win career, departing with a strained right hamstring after letting all four batters he faced reach base. After being staked to a 5-0 lead, Washington starter Tim Redding (2-1) and five relievers did just enough to protect it and end the Nationals' longest losing streak since the franchise moved to the nation's capital.

Brewers 9, Mets 7

In New York, Gabe Kapler, who managed in the Red Sox organization last season, homered for the second straight day, doubled twice and drove in three runs to help Milwaukee beat the Mets.

Corey Hart had a career-high four hits and Rickie Weeks homered off Jorge Sosa (1-1) and scored three runs for the Brewers, who won two of three in the weekend series.

The 32-year-old Kapler came out of retirement during the offseason and has four home runs in 26 at-bats.

Astros 5, Marlins 1

In Houston, Wandy Rodriguez (1-0) struck out seven and allowed five hits in seven strong innings, and J.R. Towles and Michael Bourn homered to lead the Astros, who've won two in a row for the first time this season.

Josh Willingham hit a solo homer for the Marlins.

Florida's Burke Badenhop (0-1), making his first major league start, allowed seven hits with three strikeouts and a walk.

Pirates 9, Reds 1

In Pittsburgh, Ryan Doumit, Xavier Nady and Jason Bay homered and Tom Gorzelanny (1-1) limited the Reds to one run and four hits to outpitch Cincinnati rookie Johnny Cueto, leading the Pirates to a three-game sweep of the Reds.

Cueto (1-1), outstanding in his first two starts with 18 strikeouts and no walks, wasn't as sharp in this one as he gave up five runs and five hits—four for extra bases—in six innings. Cueto struck out 22 batters until he finally gave up a walk after being the only pitcher since 1900 to strike out as many as 18 and walk none in his first two starts.

Cubs 6, Phillies 5, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, second baseman Chase Utley's throwing error allowed Ronny Cedeno to score the go-ahead run in the

10th inning and the Cubs beat the Phillies to avoid a three-game sweep.

Cedeno walked leading off the 10th against Rudy Seanez (0-1) and Geovany Soto walked after Ryan Theriot's sacrifice. Pitcher Carlos Zambrano, a career .215 hitter with 12 homers, came off the bench to pinch-hit because the Cubs were out of position players.

Zambrano hit a grounder to shortstop Bruntlett that should've been an inning-ending double play. However, first baseman Ryan Howard couldn't scoop Utley's poor throw to first and Cedeno scored.

Giants 7, Cardinals 4

In San Francisco, Tim Lincecum struck out 11 in six innings and rookie John Bowker homered for the second straight day and drove in four runs for the Giants.

Bowker became the first player in San Francisco history to homer in his first two games.

Lincecum (2-0) needed 23 pitches to get out of the first inning but settled in after that, allowing just one walk and six hits.

Rockies 13, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Clint Barmes, Matt Holliday and Garrett Atkins homered, and Colorado Rockies snapped the Diamondbacks' eight-game win streak.

Barmes drove in four runs and Holliday and Atkins knocked in three apiece for the Rockies, who beat their NL West rivals for the first time in six meetings this year.

Aaron Cook (1-1) went six innings, allowing three runs on eight hits. He walked three and struck out four.

White Sox 11, Tigers 0

At Chicago, Joe Crede and Paul Konerko each hit grand slams to back Javier Vazquez's strong start, and the White Sox pounded the struggling Detroit Tigers.

Konerko's homer came in the third off Kenny Rogers and Crede's grand slam, his second this season, came in the fifth against Zach Miner as the White Sox won for the fifth time in six games over Detroit, the preseason favorite to win Major League Baseball's American League Central Division.

Vazquez (2-1) won his second straight start, scattering five hits in seven innings while striking out nine without a walk.

Royals 5, Twins 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Brian Bannister threw his second career complete game and outpitched Francisco Liriano, who was making his first start since 2006, to help end a three-game skid.

Liriano, a MLB All-Star as a rookie in 2006, gave up six hits, walked five and struck out four in his first major league appearance since undergoing surgery 17 months ago. The big left-hander went 4-2-3 in 2006 and gave up four runs. He threw 90 pitches, 51 for strikes.

Bannister (3-0) gave up only three hits, walking one and striking out three. In three starts covering 21 innings, the right-hander has allowed only two earned runs for an ERA of 0.86.

Indians 7, Athletics 1

In Cleveland, Cliff Lee's quick and efficient pitching in the wind and cold helped the Indians end Oakland's five-game winning streak.

After a 48-minute delay at the start,

Lee (2-0) limited the A's one run and two hits over eight innings. He struck out eight without a walk as a wind-whipped mix of snow and rain fell throughout.

Rays 6, Orioles 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Jeff Niemann allowed one run over six innings in his MLB debut and B.J. Upton hit a three-run homer during a six-run fifth for the Rays.

Niemann, taken fourth overall in the 2004 amateur draft, was recalled from minor-league Durham to replace the injured Matt Garza in the rotation. He gave up six hits while striking out five.

Blue Jays 5, Rangers 4, 10 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Joe Inglett drove in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning. B.J. Ryan earned his first save in more than a year and Toronto completed a three-game sweep of the Rangers.

With the game tied at 4, Frank Thomas was walked by Dustin Nippert (0-1) leading off the 10th, and after Marco Scutaro came in as a pinch-runner, Lyle Overbay also walked. Gregg Zaun's sacrifice moved the runners up, and Inglett's flyball to right scored Scutaro.

Jesse Carlson (1-0) got two outs in the ninth for his first MLB victory.

Angels 10, Mariners 5

In Seattle, Jeff Mathis hit a two-run homer to lead a 16-hit attack, and Joe Saunders had another strong start to help Los Angeles avoid a series sweep.

The Mariners, who won the first two games 8-5 and 8-3, scratched starting pitcher Erik Bedard before the game because of inflammation in his left hip. The Mariners expect to find out in a throwing session Monday whether Bedard can return to the mound next week.

Saunders (2-0) pitched 5 1-3 innings in his third straight solid start. He gave up two runs on six hits with three walks and one strikeout. Saunders pitched eight innings in his first two starts this season and gave up only one earned run.

Right-hander Cha Seung Baek (0-1) made his first start of the season in place of Bedard. Baek allowed seven hits and four runs in 4 1-3 innings with two walks and two strikeouts. Baek pitched one inning of relief in his only other appearance this season.

Red Sox 8, Yankees 5

At Boston, A wild Daisuke Matsuzaka labored through five innings before the Red Sox's overworked bullpen bailed him out for a sloppy win over New York.

Matsuzaka improved to 3-0 after lasting just long enough to get the win as he issued six walks—at least one in each inning. But Yankees starter Phil Hughes (0-2) was even worse, lasting a career-low two innings and allowing a career-high seven runs.

New York did have some high points: Johnny Damon's steal after leading off the game with a walk was the Yankees' first of the season, ending a 12-game drought. It was their longest at the start of a season since 1948 when a 16-game streak ended with a double steal by Phil Rizzuto and Tommy Henrich.

Jason Giambi's homer in the eighth was his second of the season and the series, both off Mike Timlin. But New York never led as Boston scored three runs in the first and four in the third when Hughes left with no outs.

Kobe, Lakers grab West's top spot



LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers took sole possession of the National Basketball Association's Western Conference lead Sunday.

Player of the year candidate Kobe Bryant had 20 points, five rebounds and five assists before sitting out the fourth quarter, and the Lakers routed the defending NBA champion San Antonio Spurs 106-85 for their seventh win in eight games.

The Lakers (56-25), who clinched their first Pacific Division championship in four years and at least the No. 3 seed in the West on Friday night, are a half-game ahead of New Orleans after beginning the day tied with the Hornets for the top spot in the conference.

Lamar Odom, the only Los Angeles starter to play in the final period, added 17 points and 14 rebounds before coming out for good with 4:26 remaining. Pau Gasol had 14 points and 11 rebounds, Derek Fisher also scored 14, Jordan Farmar added 11 and Ronny Turiaf scored 10 for the Lakers, who outscored the Spurs 53-32 in the second half.

Tony Parker had 20 points, seven rebounds and five assists to lead San Antonio.

Nuggets 111, Rockets 94

At Denver, Allen Iverson scored 33 points, J.R. Smith scored 23 points and

AP
Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant runs onto the court after teammate Ronny Turiaf slammed a basket against the San Antonio Spurs' during the fourth quarter of a basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday April 13, 2008.



Denver moved a win away from earning a playoff spot.

All the Nuggets have to do now to reach the playoffs for the fifth straight

time is beat lowly Memphis on Wednesday night at home. Denver (49-32) moved a half-game ahead of Golden State for the eighth and final playoff

spot in the Western Conference.

The Warriors need to win at Phoenix on Monday night and beat Seattle on Wednesday to have a chance. But even that won't matter if the Nuggets handle their business against the lottery-bound Grizzlies.

The Rockets fell 11/2 games behind the Los Angeles Lakers atop the crazy conference.

Luther Head lead Houston with 19 points and Tracy McGrady scored 16, but he was in foul trouble from the closing minutes of the first half, and even by then the game was out of hand.

SuperSonics 99, Mavericks 95

At Seattle, rookie Kevin Durant scored twice in the final 45 seconds, and the Sonics beat Dallas in what could be the team's last in Seattle.

The team might be playing in Oklahoma City next season and is putting the finishing touches on the worst record in franchise history.

The Sonics outhustled and outplayed the playoff-bound Mavericks giving their fans something to be proud of. Earl Watson led Seattle with 21 points and 10 assists, while Nick Collison had 18 points and 11 rebounds as Seattle scored the final 10 points and handed Dallas a second straight loss.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 32 points and Seattle native Jason Terry added 25.

Magic 104, Bulls 84

At Chicago, Hedo Turkoglu scored 24 points, and Orlando beat Chicago to reach the 50-win mark for the first time in 12 years.

Dwight Howard added 19 points even though he sat out the fourth quarter, and Rashard Lewis added 18.

Orlando got a much-needed win after dropping six of 10 and losing to lottery-bound New York and Minnesota in that span. In between, the Magic captured their most lopsided win of the season when they beat Chicago 115-83 at home on Wednesday.

Andres Nocioni led Chicago with 22 points and Luol Deng added 19, but it wasn't enough to stop the Magic from reaching 50 wins for the first time since 1995-96.

Cavaliers 84, Heat 76

In Cleveland, Daniel Gibson made a 3-pointer and three straight free throws early in the fourth quarter to give Cleveland some cushion while LeBron James rested, and the Cavaliers moved closer to the East's No. 4 seed.

Delonte West scored 18 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 14 and 14 rebounds and James finished with 13 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Cavaliers, who didn't play well again but had enough to hold off the pathetic Heat.

Ricky Davis scored 17 points and Daequan Cook and Earl Barron had 13 apiece for Miami (14-66).

Pistons 91, Raptors 84

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rodney Stuckey scored 18 points, Jason Maxiell had 14 as Detroit won without playing its starters in the fourth quarter.

The loss drops Toronto (40-40) into a tie with Philadelphia for the Eastern Conference's sixth seed with two games left, although the Raptors have the tiebreaker. The sixth seed will play Orlando in the first round, while the seventh seed faces Detroit.

"Even the way he talks about himself and his game, you feel like he's not really confident," Forget said.

U.S. captain Patrick McEnroe faces no such concerns. It marked a record 10th straight time Roddick, Blake and the Bryans have played together. And despite having to face Spain on clay, a surface that always has frustrated Americans, they'll all gather again in September.

"I've been very lucky as the captain of this team," McEnroe said. "A lot of people say, 'Hey you think these guys are still going to want to play?' To me it was never a question, because these guys just love it. They're so committed."

In Moscow, Russia reached the Davis Cup semifinals for the fourth consecutive year, eliminating the Czech Republic when injured Tomas Berdych quit during the fifth set against Nikolay Davydenko. Russia won the Davis Cup in 2002 and 2006 and was runner-up to the U.S. last year.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, the Argentines ousted Sweden behind David Nalbandian's five-set victory over Robin Soderling. This was Argentina's 12th straight Davis Cup victory at home since 1998.

At Bremen, Germany, Fernando Verdasco of Spain beat Michael Berrer, and Nicolas Kiefer averted a German shutout by downing Feliciano Lopez.

Roddick puts US in Davis Cup semis



WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

(AP)—Andy Roddick was handed the large American flag and then just stood there. He wasn't going on a victory lap until his teammates joined him.

Roddick's Davis Cup dominance led the United States to the title last year and his victory Sunday eliminated France and clinched a spot in the semifinals against Spain. But Roddick clearly cherishes the camaraderie of this close-knit bunch.

The same can't be said for France. Not after its top player, Richard Gasquet, begged out of a matchup with Roddick with his country facing elimination.

Behind a blistering serve, Roddick defeated Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 for the deciding victory in the best-of-five quarterfinal. Roddick's second singles victory in three days secured the Americans' sixth straight Davis Cup win, including last year's final over Russia.

"It's nice to get rewarded for all the rough losses that we had, and I've been a part of a lot of big losses for us in Davis Cup," said Roddick, who improved to 29-9 in the competition. "You've got to try to keep an even keel

when things are going your way, but obviously it's been fun having won the last six."

A day after a loss by the No. 1 doubles team of Bob and Mike Bryan kept France's hopes alive, Roddick was never threatened in giving the Americans an insurmountable 3-1 lead. While he was held to 17 aces, he lost only 13 points on his serve to improve to 10-0 in clinching situations for the U.S.

"I think everyone makes a big deal about the 10-0 thing," Roddick said. "I have to be up 2-1 in order to clinch, so I've been put in good positions a lot of times."

Roddick fittingly wrapped up the win with an ace down the middle. He then circled the court while passing the flag among the Bryans and James Blake, who later beat Richard Gasquet in the meaningless finale 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4 to give the U.S. a 4-1 win.

"I don't know why it is, I don't know what brings us all together, but we just have a good time," Blake said.

In other quarterfinals, Russia eliminated the Czech Republic 3-2, and Argentina ousted Sweden 4-1. Spain advanced Saturday and went on to defeat Germany 4-1.

Argentina will host Russia in one semifinal, while the U.S. will visit Spain

and Rafael Nadal Sept. 19-21, which almost certainly will be on red clay.

"I know it's not convenient for us. I know we're not going to be the favorites," Roddick said. "But I know we're going to go and we're going to try. The thing about this team is we don't play when it's convenient. That's probably different from some of the other countries."

Roddick was referring to Nadal, who skipped last year's quarterfinal against the U.S. held here. But Gasquet's puzzling behavior could also apply.

Already without Australian Open finalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who flew back to Paris on Wednesday after an MRI exam revealed a cartilage tear in his right knee, Gasquet didn't hit the court until France was eliminated.

Gasquet, ranked No. 10, skipped Friday's singles with a blister on his right hand and a sore left knee. And even though Gasquet shocked Roddick in last year's Wimbledon quarterfinals, Gasquet told French captain Guy Forget he didn't want to play Roddick.

"He felt Roddick was playing too good for him and he had probably no chance," Forget said.

Gasquet said he thought the 12th-ranked Mathieu, who wasted two match points before losing to Blake

on Friday, had the better shot to beat Roddick.

"Paul-Henri was in better shape than me," Gasquet said. "I hadn't played on the court."

But the 12th-ranked Mathieu proved no match for Roddick. He broke Mathieu five times and won in just more than 90 minutes. He had 30 aces in a straight-sets win over Michael Llodra on Friday and never faced a break point against Mathieu.

"I did not have a broken leg or an arm, so I'm going to go to the court and give it my best," Mathieu said. "But Andy was too good for me today."

Roddick wasn't broken in two matches on the quick, indoor hard-court suited to his style. It continued an exceptional month for Roddick in which he beat the tour's top three players - Roger Federer, Nadal and Novak Djokovic. Winning 36 of 41 points on his first serve, the result may not have been much different if Gasquet was his opponent.

"I don't think it would have mattered, the way I played today," Roddick said.

The loss, the fourth straight time France has bowed out in the quarterfinals, left questions about whether Forget will select the temperamental Gasquet again.

IMMELMAN

From Page 28

a charge, Immelman passed his biggest test in golf.

Immelman came up clutch around Amen Corner, stretched his lead to as many as six shots, and held on for a 3-over 75 to become the first South African since Player in 1978 to wear the coveted green jacket.

"This has been the ultimate roller-coaster ride, and I hate roller coasters," Immelman said.

He wins a tournament in South Africa. He's in the hospital a week later as doctors slice open his back to remove a tumor. He struggles to contend when he returns to golf. And only last week, he misses another cut on the PGA Tour.

"Here I am ... Masters champion," Immelman said. "It's the craziest thing I've ever heard of."

Reached by telephone in Abu Dhabi, Player told his assistant: "I am so proud of Trevor. What a thrill it was to see him come back from major surgery and beat Tiger. I can't wait to see him and shake his hand personally."

Player is among five players to have won the career Grand Slam. Among active players, Immelman becomes the third South African to capture a major, joining Ernie Els and Retief Goosen.

As for that calendar Grand Slam, that will have to wait until next year for Woods.

He never got within five shots of the lead when he was on the course. He twice missed birdie putts inside 8 feet. And he had to settle for a 72 for his fifth runner-up finish in a major.

"I learned my lesson there with the press," Woods said with a

smile. He was the one who started the talk about a Grand Slam by stating three months ago that winning all four majors in the same year was "easily within reason."

The only slam possibilities now belong to Immelman, a 28-year-old with a polished swing and quiet determination.

"I knew he was going to make a run," he said, referring to Woods. "To win a major while he's playing, and he's playing at his peak ... it's a hell of an achievement. I'm not sure if I'll ever get it done again, but I'll be trying my best."

Even after Immelman dunked a 7-iron into the water on the 16th hole with a five-shot lead, he regrouped to make double bogey, saved par from a bunker on the 17th and hit the final green despite his tee shot landing in a deep divot.

He tied Arnold Palmer (1962) for the highest final round by a Masters champion, but all that did was make it look closer than it was. The three guys behind Immelman going into the last round were a combined 18-over par. Only four players broke par.

Immelman finished at 8-under 280 and earned \$1.35 million for his second PGA Tour, and ninth worldwide. His other U.S. win came two years ago in the Western Open, where Woods was a runner-up.

Immelman applauded the gallery and offered a strongman pose before walking off the green and into the arms of his wife, Carminita, and his 1-year-old son, Jacob, who clasped the flag from the 18th hole.

It was quite a contrast to Brandt Snedeker, who briefly shared the lead on the second hole and was still trying to catch Immelman until hitting another shot into Rae's

Creek on the par-5 13th, one of several mistakes.

Snedeker sobbed into a white towel after closing with a 77, leaving him in a tie for third with Stewart Cink (72).

"I went from extreme highs to extreme lows, and that's what you don't want to do around here," Snedeker said.

Immelman had to work hard to keep his cool.

He made a 10-foot par save from the bunker at No. 9 to keep a two-shot cushion, but continued to look shaky. Immelman missed the 11th green well to the right when his chip didn't quite reach and he was left with a 20-foot putt that was slick and dangerous.

Ahead of him, Woods was gaining momentum.

Woods holed a 70-foot birdie putt on the 11th, made an acrobatic escape from the trees on the 13th and spun a wedge down the slope on the par-5 13th that left him 5 feet away for birdie.

Immelman holed his par putt. Woods missed, just as he has done the last two years on the back nine of a major he once dominated. That turn of events kept Woods five shots behind, and he three-putted the 14th to end his hopes.

"I hit the ball well enough to contend," Woods said. "I definitely hit the ball well enough to put some pressure on Trevor. I just didn't make any putts."

The first blast of wind hit Amen Corner an hour before the leaders teed off, a sign of how tough it would be in the final round. And that didn't account for the pressure on four guys contending for the first time in a major—at Augusta, no less.

The first to fall was Paul Casey, two shots out of the lead

until it took him two shots to get out of the bunker on No. 4 for double bogey. Casey dropped six shots in a five-hole stretch, including the par-3 sixth, when he called a penalty on himself for his ball moving a fraction of an inch as he stood over a 3-foot putt. Casey closed with a 79.

Next was Steve Flesch, who was even par through 11 holes and only two shots behind as he stood on the 12th tee, trying to guess whether the swirling wind would be on his side.

He felt a gust as his 8-iron was in flight, and knew what was coming. The ball came down into the creek for a double bogey, and Flesch bogeyed four straight holes after that. He shot a 78 and tied for fifth with British Open champion Padraig Harrington and Phil Mickelson, who each shot 72.

Snedeker provided most of the excitement on an otherwise dull day, holing a 35-foot eagle putt on No. 2 for a share of the lead. He made a 45-foot birdie putt across the green on the 12th to pull within three shots.

But there was a massive shortage of pars, and far too many mistakes, the biggest coming on No. 13.

"Golly, man, if somebody could tell me how to play that second shot, I'd love to know," he said. "Because two days in a row, I've hit it in the damn water."

Immelman wisely laid up, then fired a wedge into the back bank and watched it roll down to 2 feet for birdie. As the bogeys piled up behind him, the South African suddenly found himself in the most beautiful spot at Augusta.

He had a five-shot lead with five holes to play, most of the trouble out of the way.

Game 1 and an 11-2 triumph in Game 2.

Omar won five individual awards while playing for the Island Girls to add to her collection she earned in various leagues she played on Saipan. She also suited up for the CNMI in the last five Micro Games and was part of the Commonwealth All-Star squad that saw action in the 7th Palau South Pacific Mini

Games held in Koror in 2005.

"I will surely miss my job at the Division of Sports and Recreation and all of my friends here on Saipan when I leave," said Omar before joining her team in celebrating their title win on Friday.

Omar said she also hopes to play softball in Seattle but first she has to get to know the community she will become a part of.

much better against Mohammed Al Nabhani, but lost in a tight one nonetheless, 5-7, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, 2-6.

Pacific Oceania then lost the vital doubles match in five hard-fought sets Saturday when Brett Baudinet of Cook Islands and Cyril Jacob of Vanuatu took on the Al Nabhani brothers, who rallied to win the match and the tie, 7-6 (7-3) 5-7, 3-6 7-6 (7-3), 6-4.

Pacific Oceania was skippered by Cyril Mainguy, while Majid Abdullah Mandhari was team captain for the victorious Oman side.

Oman's win gave it a 1-1 win-loss record against Pacific Oceania. In their first head-to-head match-up, Pacific Oceania beat Oman, 2-1, in Dubai in their Group A Round Robin Asia/Oceania Zone Group III tie way back in 1996.

Pacific Oceania thus goes back competing in Group III, something it has not done since the CNMI's very own Jeff Race guided the Islanders to victories over Syria (3-0), Bahrain (3-0), and host Vietnam (2-1) in May 2004 to take one of two berths to Group II.

3 player Sulaiman Al Rawahi, 6-1, 6-4, in the final match of Pacific Oceania's and Oman's 2008 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II relegation tie.

Pacific Oceania was relegated to Group III after losing the opening singles in Day 1 and Day 2 doubles matches against Oman last Friday and Saturday.

The speedy Leong met his match against Khalid Al Nabhani as the ace of the Pacific Oceania team was overpowered in straight sets, 1-6, 6-7 (3-6), 4-6.

Langton, meanwhile, fared

man went 5-for-5 with five runs, one double, and three triples. Lizama went 5-for-6 with four runs, a double, and a triple.

Chris Mizer went 4-for-6 with four runs scored to go with his three doubles.

Sablan also pitched three in-

nings giving up two earned runs on hits with four strikeouts and five walks. Jeremy Rabauliman pitched one no-hit inning in relief with three strikeouts retiring the Suns' top of the lineup composed of Paul Celis, Lametto Sablan, and Perry Celis.

In the other game, R.J. Knecht pitched four four-hit innings to lead the PTI Dolphins to a 9-6 decision against the AA Enterprises/TCC World Tanapag Braces. Knecht gave up two earned runs with three strikeouts and three walks.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**NBA STANDINGS****EASTERN CONFERENCE****Atlantic Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	64	16	.800	
x-Philadelphia	40	40	.500	24
x-Toronto	40	40	.500	24
New Jersey	33	47	.413	31
New York	23	57	.288	41

Southeast Division

y-Orlando	50	30	.625	
x-Washington	42	38	.525	8
Atlanta	37	43	.463	13
Charlotte	31	49	.388	19
Miami	14	66	.175	36

Central Division

y-Detroit	57	23	.713	
x-Cleveland	44	36	.550	13
Indiana	35	45	.438	22
Chicago	31	49	.388	26
Milwaukee	26	54	.325	31

WESTERN CONFERENCE**Southwest Division**

x-New Orleans	55	25	.688	
x-Houston	54	26	.675	1
x-San Antonio	54	26	.675	1
x-Dallas	50	31	.617	5 1/2
Memphis	22	58	.275	33

Northwest Division

y-Utah	53	27	.663	
Denver	49	32	.605	4 1/2
Portland	40	40	.500	13
Minnesota	21	59	.263	32
Seattle	19	62	.235	34 1/2

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	56	25	.691	
x-Phoenix	53	27	.663	2 1/2
Golden State	48	32	.600	7 1/2
Sacramento	38	42	.475	17 1/2
L.A. Clippers	23	57	.288	32 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

z-clinched conference

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 91, Toronto 84

L.A. Lakers 106, San Antonio 85

Cleveland 84, Miami 76

Orlando 104, Chicago 84

Denver 111, Houston 94

Seattle 99, Dallas 95

Salty Boyz rule BASA softball league

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Darwin Masaharu went perfect at the plate while Leo Bobai pitched a complete game shutout to help Salty Boyz coast to a 6-0 blanking of PTI 83 in Game 3 of the finals of the Belau Amateur Softball Association Masters Softball League yesterday at the Dandan Elementary School Field.

Masaharu went 3-for-3 scoring twice and had three RBIs in Game 3 to help Salty Boyz secure the title. Masaharu's exploits in the three-game series earned him the finals most valuable player trophy.

He went 8-for-9 in the three games he played with four runs scored and eight RBIs.

Salty Boyz won Game 1, 6-3, but PTI 83 tied the series at 1-1 with a 7-5 decision in the second game.

PTI 83s bid to win the crown ended with a thud when Leo Bobai shut them down in Game 3. Bobai pitched a complete



Members of Salty Boyz gather for a group photo after winning the Belau Amateur Softball Association Masters League on Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Field.

JON PEREZ

game shutout limiting their foes to four hits with one strikeout and one walk.

He held the PTI 83 batters to either fly outs or hit grounders

and line drives, which the Salty Boyz defense found no difficulty in fielding.

PTI 83 still has a chance to rally back into the game but

Bobai forced Newman Techur to fly out to Luis Ngiraike-lau at left field then Jess Omar grounded out on a 5-3 putout play for the second out.

Masaharu went 3-for-3 for Salty Boyz as he and Bobai nearly helped Salty Boyz come back from a 7-3 deficit to nearly sweep the series.

Masaharu also scored twice

Inos Yamada singled to right but he failed to score and was left stranded at first when Jack Diaz, on a 2-2 pitch, swung on Bobai's fifth offering striking out to end the game.

PTI 83s bats went into full swing in the second game as they prevented Salty Boyz from sweeping the best-of-three title series. Yamada and Wayne Techur led the PTI 83 attack combining for 4-for-6 in batting with two RBIs.

Techur also scored a run while Perry Besong went 2-for-2 with a run. Larry Sebaklim, 1-for-3, had a double.

Masaharu went

and had three RBIs including a two-RBI single in the first inning when Salty Boyz opened up with a 3-0 lead. Bobai went 2-for-3 with a triple.

Salty Boyz nearly rallied in Game 2 when Percy Omechelang led off with a single but Tim Sakuma hit an infield fly to a waiting Paul Camacho at first base for the first out.

Knee Tutii struck out on a full count as he foul tipped Besong's sixth pitch highball for the second out. Steve Brel fly out to Ed Kapileo for the third out that ended the game.

Omechelang's pitching backed up by the consistent hits from Bobai and Masaharu gave Salty Boyz a 6-3 win in Game 1.

Omechelang pitched a complete game when he held PTI 83 to 7-for-38 in batting for a .250 average with two strikeouts and four walks. Bobai went 3-for-3 with three runs with Masaharu going 2-for-3 with two RBIs.

In the battle for third, Poland Yamada and Mars Blanco combined for 4-for-7 at bat with three RBIs to lead Che'lus to a 10-4 triumph against Red Torch.

Yamada also had a double while pitcher Ray Aldan gave up three earned runs on 12 hits with five strikeouts and one walk.

Aldan gave an RBI triple to Roland Martin in Red Torch's four-run third inning rally.

Cruz cruises to Bing April championship

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Zack Cruz demolished the opposition Sunday en route to winning his very first Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament at the Capital Bowling Center.

Cruz, a perennial runner-up the past couple of years, this time made sure the April crown was his after knocking down 186 and 191 pins in his first two games.

He was just getting started though, as Cruz smacked 223 and 214 pins in his final two games to finish with a four-game total of 814 pinfalls (203.5 average), which was a whooping 143 pins ahead of his closest pursuer.

Back-to-back monthly champion Raphael Zapanta was a far second after his rolls of 159, 180, and 157 were only good enough for a 671 total and a 167.75 average.

Jamie Vales came in third with her 646 total and 161.5 average, built around a four-

game series of 171, 128, 178, and 169.

Cruz, Zapanta, and Vales earned \$20, \$15, and \$10, respectively, for their performances Sunday. Cruz also received a case of Selecta Ice Cream from Micronesian Brokers Inc. for topping the youth competition.

Mayanne McKenzie (611 total), Ryan Gutierrez (608), Marion McKenzie (523), Troy Verdaguer (439), Nikko Gutierrez (399), Toby Gutierrez (237), and Marcel McKenzie (226) also took part in the monthly bowling tournament for youth bowlers 12 to 19 years old.

In the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes, Manuel Castro leads the men's roll-off with a first day score of 830 (207.5 average), while Gigi Zapanta is pacing the women with her 722 and 180.5.

Results of Day 2 of the two-day King and Queen of the Lanes were still not available as of press time.

The Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes as well as the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes are sponsored by MARPAC.



Zack Cruz, center, poses with runner-up Raphael Zapanta, right, and Jamie Vales after winning his very first Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament last Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

11 kids join first XTEARRA triathlon

organize Saturday's race, said the 11 kids enjoyed the fun but challenging course that has steep hills.

"Bikers were forced to walk [and] we even had a great bike crash. These kids can now truly say 'I am an XTEARRA athlete.'

Kento Akimaru topped the 8-and-under division with a combined swim-bike-run time of eight minutes and 16 seconds, while Steven Goodwin came in second completing the course in 11:23.

The relay team of Kazumi Otake and Pia Tenorio finished second behind Akimaru when

they came in at 8:20. They had a swim-bike-run time of 2:46, 3:29, and 2:05.

Maxi Braig continued to dominate the 9-10 division with a course record of 15:04, while Andrew Kimball finished second in 15:29 with Misaki Cramer coming in at 17:36.

Bryce Daly, who crashed in the bike course, finished in 19:27. He had a 3:55 swim, rode the bike course in 10:33 before completing the race with a 4:59 run.

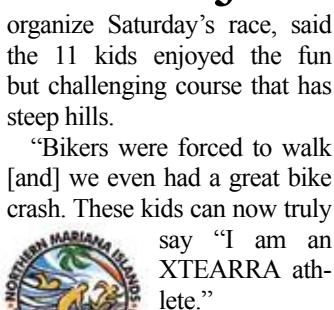
Nuri Gutzwiller bested Andrew Johnson and Jack Sharer in the 11-12 division. Gutzwiller blitzed to a new course record of 12:29 to finish

1:55 ahead of Johnson, 14:14. Sharer was a distant third with a combined time of 18:04.

The 8-and-under course is divided into a 100m swim, 400m bike, and 300m run, while the 9-12 division followed a 200m swim, 800m bike, and 400m run.

Stewart said he is thankful for all the volunteers who helped him organize the race. He also thanked Pacific Islands Club for donating the prizes for the awards and Marianas Resort for the use of the course.

The next kids race will be on May 3, Saturday, at the American Memorial Park while another one will be scheduled in June.



Participants of the first kids triathlon—dubbed XTEARRA—pose for a group photo after finishing Saturday's race at the Kan Pacific Pool in Marpi.

RA triathlon, which took place last Saturday at the Marianas Resort and Spa grounds in Marpi.

Saipan Swim Club coach Michael Stewart, who helped

Fil-Taga April Ace this Sunday

Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its April Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, April 20, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort east course.

According to tournament director, Fr. Manny Corcuera, show time is set at 11am with tee-off time scheduled 30 minutes later at 11:30pm.

Fil-Taga's officers are led by president Jun Dela Cruz Jr., vice-president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, and treasurer Cuban.

Its board of directors is made up of Fr. Manny Corcuera, Miguel Cruz, Jr., Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Battalones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the \$35 to \$40 price range for most tournaments. (Mark Rabago)



Darwin Masaharu went perfect at the plate while Leo Bobai pitched a complete game shutout to help Salty Boyz coast to a 6-0 blanking of PTI 83 in Game 3 of the finals of the Belau Amateur Softball Association Masters Softball League yesterday.

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Sports

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Immelman wins Masters by 3 strokes

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Trevor Immelman felt goose bumps as he listened to a phone message left by Gary Player, his childhood idol and the last South African to slip on a green jacket at the Masters.

Player told him to believe in himself, to be strong through the adversity that was sure to find him during the wind-whipped final round at Augusta National.

"I took that all to heart," Immelman said after a three-shot victory. "And I'm sure he's proud of me."

For more than just his golf.

Only four months ago, Immelman was in a hospital in South Africa as doctors prepared to remove a tumor from his diaphragm, learning only after the operation that it was benign. On Sunday, as he stood over a slippery 20-foot putt for par as Tiger Woods was trying to make



Trevor Immelman celebrates on the 18th hole after winning the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 13, 2008, in Augusta, Ga.

Yanks fend off new stadium 'curse'

A construction worker's bid to curse the New York Yankees by planting a Boston Red Sox jersey in their new stadium was foiled Sunday when the home team removed the offending shirt from its burial spot.

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Omar caps stint with another title



Jovie Omar, left, joins Janice Camacho for a photo after receiving her individual award for having the most doubles in Friday's awards ceremony of the Inter-government Softball League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Veteran ballplayer Jovie Omar capped her local softball stint with another championship, helping the Department of Com-

DCCA's win at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field last Friday night was a fitting send off for Omar, who left for Kent, Seattle, early Saturday morning.

She checked in at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 6am with her plane set to fly off to the mainland at 8am.

Omar decided to leave Saipan for good to tend to her ailing mother, who is already in Seattle. "I am leaving for medical reasons. I want to help my sick mother to recover."

Before she left, the many-time CNMI All-Star helped DCCA score a two-game sweep of Northern Marianas College-Proa in their three-game finals on Friday. DCCA won Game 1, 18-14, and scored a 13-10 come-from-behind win in Game 2 to secure their title defense.

Omar said this was the second time that she became part of a team that came back to win the title. "It was just like last year when the Island Girls came from behind to win the championship."

In last year's Islandwide Softball League, Omar made the game-winning play by stretching out her left arm far enough to make a catch of an Angela

See OMAR on Page 26

Leong and Langton win 'dead' singles

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pacific Oceania regained a measure of respect Sunday when they won the "dead" singles, a day after Oman relegated the Islanders to Group III in the 2009 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania

Zone competition held at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat.

Michael Leong of Solomon Islands and Juan Sebastian Langton of Samoa beat Mohammad Al Nabhani and Sulaiman Al Rawahi, respectively, in the third day's reverse singles to allow the Islanders to bow out of Group II with a

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Pacific Oceania team captain Cyrille Mainguy, Michael Leong, Juan Sebastian Langton, Brett Baudinet, and Cyril Jacob pose with supporters following the end of their 2008 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II relegation tie against Oman Sunday night.

Patriots pummel foes, take top spot

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Defending champion SaipanCell Patriots scored consecutive one-sided wins over separate opponents on Saturday and Thursday to take solo first place in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League.

The Patriots first victim was the Kautz Glass Pirates on April 10 when they scored a 15-1 win over the Mark Flores-managed squad then coasted to a 39-4 thrashing of the Shell Marianas Suns on Saturday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Jun Rabauliman and Joe Lizama led the Patriots' win over the Pirates as they blasted home runs each against Kautz Glass pitcher Frankie Camacho.

Rabauliman went perfect at the plate, 3-for-3, scoring three runs and had three RBIs, including a third inning two-run home run. Lizama went 2-for-4 with two runs, four RBIs, and a three-run homer also in the third.

Brandon Philip nearly pitched a no-hitter against the Pirates if not for a Kasei Toda RBI single in the second inning to let Frankie Norita score their lone run. He struck out seven batters but walked another six.

The SaipanCell crew's bats were again in full power in Saturday's 39-4 crushing of the Suns.

Jared Sablan and Jeremy Rabauliman led the Patriots' hit parade as they peppered the Suns bullpen going 39-for-56 in batting for a .696 average.

Sablan blasted a first inning grand slam, going 5-for-6 as he hit the cycle with five runs scored. He singled in his first at bat then had a double and triple in the second and fourth innings to go with his five RBIs.

Rabauliman went berserk belting two round-trippers, going 5-for-7 and scoring six times to also hit for the cycle. He started off with a first inning solo shot then doubled in the second and blasted a two-run homer and an RBI triple in the third.

Rabauliman did not stop there as he connected for an RBI double in the fourth to

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